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INDIA : OPENING UP A WORLD OF BOOKS FOR KIDS

EDUCATION IN NAMIBIA : STARTING FROM SCRATCH

No. 19 - OCTOBER 1990

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IDEAS AND OPINIONS

Fits the bill

Dr. Mel Maskin
The Bronx High School of Science
Bronx, N.Y., USA

I offer a course called "Global Research" where my students examine the interconnectedness of the Developed and Developing countries. Our hope is that they learn to appreciate the need for cooperation on the planet between the rich and poor, first and Third World, etc. I have had difficulty, however, in finding quality publications which contain accurate, up-to-date information on the theme. Your publication seems to fit the bill admirably.

Bringing Unesco and Africa together

Mr. Isaac Eli
Vice-President of the Sudan Olympic Committee
Khartoum, Sudan

Unesco SOURCES should reach all parts of Africa and the World, our schools, universities and training colleges. It is a great help for all of us who spare no effort to see that Unesco's principles of peace and development reach all parts of the country, especially our young people. Your policy of bringing Unesco and Africa together is of great benefit to the Continent, for instance in emphasizing that while Africa needs modern technology, our traditional cultures should be used as a basis for development. As an Olympic athlete (110-meter hurdles/Rome 1960), I also appreciate your reports on Unesco's work, along with the IOC, to promote physical education and sport in our schools and universities.

Format and Content

Ms Joanne Dufour, Adjunct Professor
Central Washington University
Seattle, WA, USA

I commend you on the format and content of **Unesco SOURCES** which I will be recommending in my classes at the university, as well as in a workshop at the annual convention of the National Council for the Social Studies in California in November.

Absentminded

M. Mafeo
Explorer,
Paris

Rather absentminded, and generally pressed for time, I particularly appreciate the very intelligible "facts in figures" which so intelligently illustrate your texts. Easily assimilated at a glance, this information immediately sparks interest in the related article which otherwise might go unnoticed. Along the same lines, I compliment you for avoiding a Mercator projection for your Silk Roads map. The Mercator too often creates false illusions which, here, would have considerably increased distances while decreasing our cartographic comprehension of these distance places.

"Fur" tree ?

Ms. Jane Wright
Paris

I was amused to see on the back page of the June issue of **SOURCES** (No. 16) a photograph of a "tall fur tree" (sic) suffering from the effects of acid rain. Are they to be put on the endangered species list together with the big cats ?

Many thanks to our attentive reader for her observation. We have shippeda new dictionary to our inattentive editor, currently on holiday in Cypress. ***Ed. -***

Readers, this page is yours. Please don't hesitate to share your opinions, your criticism, your comments on Unesco's activities. To your pens !

INSIGHT

"Environmental myopia..."

When night falls in the tropical forest one is in a total surround of myriad will-o-the wisp sounds and organic smells. There is a tremendous sense of remoteness but at the same time of being at one with this the richest of biological communities. That feeling is the same today as it was 25 years ago when I first experienced the fascination of the Amazon forest. Little else is.

In the ensuing years, the tempo of destruction increased until finally remote sensing images revealed a girdle of fire and smoke clouds around the forested parts of the global midriff. While one could argue about the precision of numbers, the images made it impossible to ignore the problem or put it out of mind. Today the plight of the tropical forest is as common parlance among shopkeepers along Copacabana as in conservation organizations. For Earth Day, graffiti artists in a gang torn section of Los Angeles did a mural about violence against nature featuring the Amazon. And environment and rainforest in particular have forced themselves onto the agendas of economic summits. There is widespread recognition that addressing the problem of global climate change requires global management of carbon, and that, in turn, cannot be achieved without global management of forests.

The hard part is still to come, of course, namely the solutions to the problem. It is hard in one sense to say that any one aspect or solution is more important than another. Multiple approaches are required. The welfare of the slash and burn agriculturalist is an integral part of the solution as is increasing the ways in which the forest and its biological riches can bring economic return on a sustainable basis. Clearly the job cannot be done without assistance from non tropical countries, but in a sense of responsible collaboration, not as a handout or buyout. The great social vector of population growth and the powerful but dimly seen maze of economic vectors have to be addrressed as well.

The tropical forests not only constitute flywheels of regional and global climate, they are also the world's largest biological library. Just a single species has the potential to transform human society through application of knowledge about its unique set of biological systems. As living creatures ourselves, there is no library in which we have greater self interest. Yet it is scarcely catalogued; I would guess less than five percent of the species even have names. There is something awry in our value system that has allowed us to get to the state of such destructive potential with such little appreciation of the other entities with which we share the gift and excitement of life. It is nothing short of intellectual arrogance which leads most of us to abhor book-burning but to ask do we really need all those species ? Until we have corrected this environmental myopia we will have solved almost nothing.

Dr. Thomas E. Lovejoy
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, USA
Chairman, US National MAB Committee

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READEX FICHE

PEOPLE

A NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR A NEW SECTOR

Mr. Henrikas Alguirdas Iouchkiavitchious (USSR) has been named Assistant Director-General of the new Sector of Communication, Information and Informatics. A telecommunications engineer by profession, Mr. Iouchkiavitchious, 55, has held numerous senior posts within television and radio broadcasting organizations in the Soviet Union.

Prior to taking up his new job at Unesco on September 3, he served as Head of the USSR Interministerial Committee for Radio and Television Development, Member of the USSR Interministerial Committee for Satellite Communication, Chairman of the Steering Committee on High Definition Television and Member of the Radio and Television and Media Co-ordination Committee of the International Olympic Committee.

RESTRUCTURING THE SECRETARIAT

Between now and the end of 1991, the Unesco Secretariat will be cut by 28 posts, with another 43 jobs being transferred into the field. The reductions will see 12 senior positions abolished, including three posts of Assistant Director-General. The changes also mean that a substantial number of the 174 Headquarters posts which have been frozen until the end of the current biennium (1990-1991) for financial reasons, will also be decentralized and filled at the beginning of 1992.

These decisions, taken by Director-General Federico Mayor, were finalized at the end of August, at the same time as the reshuffling of the Secretariat, details of which were initially announced last February. In particular, the number of services attached to the Directorate has been diminished and two "co-ordinators" posts have been created - one for education and the other for the environment.

SHEVARDNADZE THANKS UNESCO

Soviet Foreign Affairs Minister Eduard Shevardnadze had some warm words for Unesco when he took the microphone at the United Nations on September 25 ...

"We particularly thank Unesco and those countries and organizations which have helped, in such moving way, the children of Chernobyl" the minister said *"inviting them on holiday or to follow medical treatment, and each time with such a warm welcome."* (See **Unesco Sources** No.18).

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Educating one million children

Among Unesco's five international literacy prizes awarded on September 8 in Geneva, the Noma prize, offered by Japanese publisher Shoichi Noma, was attributed to the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

Founded in the 17th century by Saint Jean-Baptiste de la Salle from Rheims in France, the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools includes 9,000 brothers and another 35,000 laique members who describe their vocation as *"teaching inspired by the values of the gospel"*.

Following the "Kiko" method, a child can learn to read in two weeks (Photo Institut "de La Salle").

"Our ultimate goal is the development of each nation and individual by the promotion of the culture of each country along with a sense of human values," explains the Institute's Secretary of Education, José Maria Valladolid.

Teaching in all its dimensions

The Institute has built up a network of 1,200 educational establishments in 81 countries around the world, teaching more than one million children. On top of this the order runs numerous adult education groups and organizes community and leisure activities. Their former students remain closely linked through an active international federation.

Headquartered in Rome, this network provides an education, covering all levels and disciplines normally offered by schools, for the most deprived, marginalized groups in society whether they be in the Third World or in industrialized countries. *"Our priority is teaching in all of its dimensions,"* says the Education Secretary.

"In Mexico, each weekend for the past nine years, a group of our students has travelled 300 kilometres from Vera Cruz to an isolated mountain village called Huayaaulco. Prior to our arrival, the one thousand indians who live in this village were illiterate and had no access to running water, electricity, sanitation or schools. Today, they know how to read, write and count in their own language as well as in Spanish. They have books, as well as running water and electricity.

In France, thanks to a method perfected by one of our brothers - known as the Kiko method - we are experimenting with travelling schools for gypsies and the children of marginalized communities, such as circus employees. Following a pedagogy based on drawings and phonetic pronunciation, a child can learn to read in two weeks. We have a similar system in Spanish - the Micho method.

"In Equatorial Guinée, we teach children in their own language, Fang, which is extremely difficult for us, as well as in Spanish. We work like this on all the continents, with Muslims, Buddhists, Christians and Animists." José Maria Valladolid's enthusiasm bubbles over when he starts talking about these experiences that he modestly qualifies as *"very agreable"*...

"Up until now," he concludes *"we have received medals and rewards for our work here and there. But this is the first time that our action has been crowned by a prize as universal as the award with which Unesco has honoured us."*

Max Cerrans

PEOPLE

Spinning a web of knowledge : Prof. Jack Cannon

In a remote part of Western Australia, there exists a special spider which, instead of eating his brethren, prefers to invite them onto its web to live more socially together. Australian scientist, Jack Cannon, is researching the chemical makeup of the web to discover what might attract them.

This "social spider" syndrome offers a fitting analogy for the fine webs being spun through Unesco's Regional Network for the Chemistry of Natural Products in South East Asia (see pp. 15-16). Jack Cannon is also one of the many scientists contributing to the success of this "web" that constitutes Unesco's first such network.

An Associate Professor of Organic Chemistry at the University of Western Australia, Cannon has devoted much of his career to unravelling the mysteries of plant ecology. His work, for example, has helped explain why native trees fail to regenerate in newly cleared forest.

Jack Cannon :
driven by a fascination for plants and a desire to help young scientists.

"Hooked" on South-East Asia

His fascination for plants and a desire to help young scientists led him, in 1974, to the tropical forests of South-East Asia.

"I was 'hooked' on the region from that very first trip!" he admits. *"I was impressed by the energy and enthusiasm of the people, as well as challenged by the job of improving conditions for scientists in the region".*

As a result, Cannon and one of his former students, Pichaet Wiriyachitra, decided to undertake joint research. Their topic combined scientific aims with development issues - the organic chemistry of natural products in the Asian region, in particular medicinal plants. The project is remembered by Cannon as a high point in his career. *"The most satisfying thing for me is helping to get people started in science and then seeing them get other people going. It spreads."*

Fortuitously, other scientists around the world were thinking along identical lines and in 1975 Unesco created the Regional Network for the Chemistry of Natural Products in Southeast Asia. Jack Cannon joined Unesco's activities with enthusiasm, representing Australia on the Network from 1978 to 1982. Thanks to this structure, he explains " *a window for viewing chemical activities in South-East Asia"* has been opened by Unesco.

Although only two years away from retirement, Professor Cannon now combines a full teaching programme with writing two thousand letters a year on behalf of these various scientific networks. These days, laboratory research takes second place. *"I like doing research. But I think at this stage it's probably more important for me to support younger people in the region and Australia, rather than to examine yet another plant for alkaloids."*

In 1989, Professor Cannon was one of two Australians awarded the Einstein Silver medal for services to Unesco activities. He remains convinced that the sustained development of chemistry in his region can be achieved.

"You've got to be optimistic. I think that Unesco deserves our support because it's all we've got. It's the one global forum where you can get in there and say what needs to be done. And people will listen to you."

Victoria Laurie
Perth/Australia

▪ UNESCO SOURCES SOON IN SPANISH

Spanish readers will soon have their own edition of **Unesco Sources**, thanks to the Unesco Centre of Catalonia.

Under a recent agreement signed by Director-General, Federico Mayor, and Centre Director, Felix Marti I Ambel, the Centre will take charge of producing the Spanish language edition, which, however, will be printed and despatched along with the French and English versions by Headquarters. The first issue should reach readers early next year.

The editorial staff of **Sources** extends its warmest thanks to the Catalonia Centre for thus providing greater access to people in Spain and Latin America to information about Unesco.

▪ IN DEFENCE OF PEACE AND FREEDOM...

"Our voices must be heard ... we cannot accept that the memory of our people be reduced to national monuments ... we must also have justice, freedom of expression and the full participation of the people in building up our future ...thank you for this prize on behalf of the peasants of Guatemala."

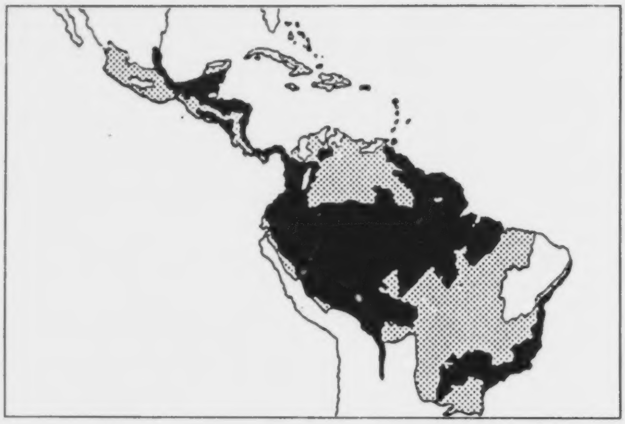
This impassioned plea was made by Rigoberta Menchu Tum, 31, at Unesco Headquarters July 20, after accepting the 1990 Unesco Prize for Peace Education.

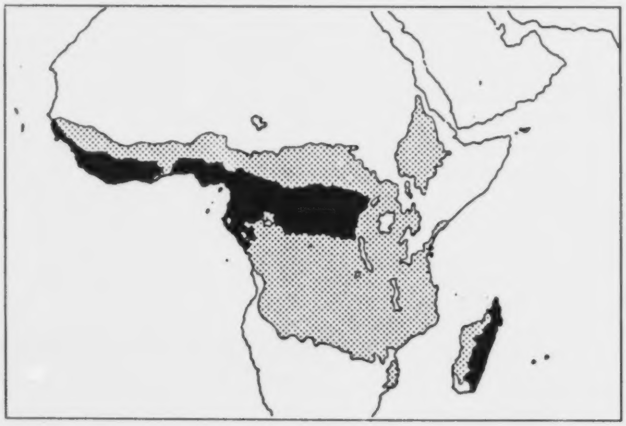
Ms. Menchu, a Guatemalan Indian and ardent defender of human and political rights, shared the $60,000 prize with the international think-tank, World Order Models Project (WOMP), represented at the ceremony by co-director Mr. Saul Mendlowitz.

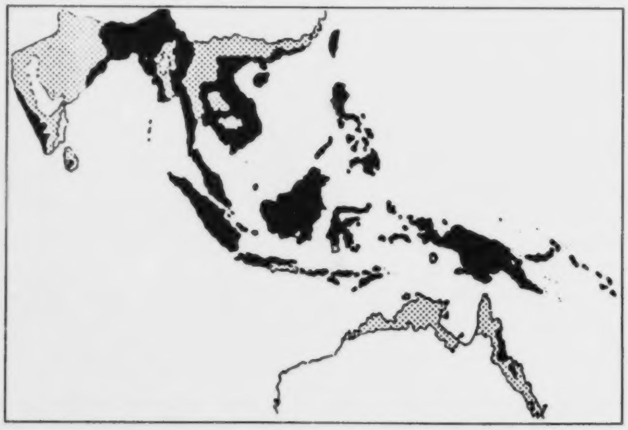
Rigoberta Menchu Tum (Photo Unesco/Dominique Roger).

TROPICAL FORESTS

Across three continents







These three maps present the location of tropical forest zones, that is to say, those found between the Tropics of Capricorn and Cancer. But what exactly is meant by "tropical forest"?

This denomination, in fact, covers two different types : drier, more open, partially deciduous forests (in grey on the maps), and moist, dense, broad-leaf, evergreen forests (in black on the maps). These latter, scientifically defined as "Tropical rain forests", correspond to the "virgin forests" described by explorers during the last century.

One of them, the German Alexander von Humboldt, qualified this ecological system as "forest piled on forest". The description is well chosen. All tropical forests present a vertical succession of very different strata, each with its own rich natural life, from the sun-soaked canopy sometimes 60 meters above the ground, down to the dark and humid lower level.

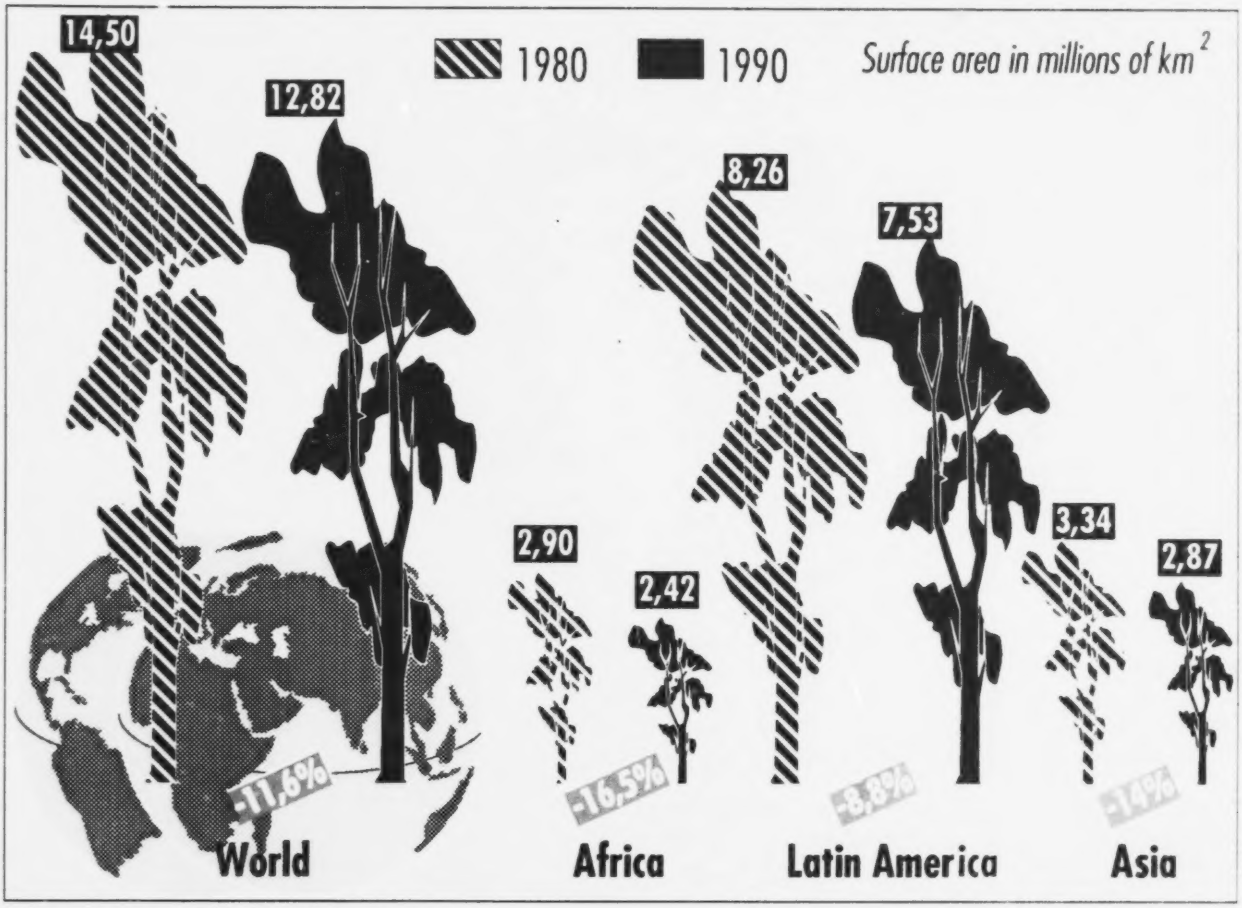
Because of this stratification, no other natural system contains such a wealth of animal and plant species. The flanks of a single volcano in the Philippines, for example, support a greater diversity of plant species than the entire United States. In the same way, a single tributary of the Amazon contains more fish than all the rivers of the U.S.

Latin America contains the greatest part of the world's tropical forests (59 %), the Amazon basin constituting by far the largest forest of its kind (about half the world's total tropical forest surface). Next comes Asia (22 %), where the forest is mainly concentrated in Indonesia (about 10 % of the world tropical forest), Malaysia, the Philippines, the Indochinese peninsula and the extreme south of the Chinese coast. Finally, about 19 % of the tropical forest is located in Africa, essentially in Zaire and the Congo (over 10 % of the world total).

Maps from *Nature & Resources*, Vol. XIX, No. 1, January - March, 1983.

FACTS IN FIGURES

Deforestation A dangerously accelerating rhythm



Information source: FAO. Graph A. Darmon.

The rate of deforestation throughout the humid tropics has accelerated considerably over the past decade (1980-1990) compared to the years immediately preceding. The increase is most obvious in Africa, followed closely by Asia and then Latin America.

This trend is presented in the above graph, which shows the world situation and the case of each of the three continents harbouring tropical forests, as well as the surface area covered by forests in 1980 and 1990 (in millions of square kilometres) and the percentage of forest destroyed during this decade around the world and in each of the three concerned regions.

The information is taken from a report just published by the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) on the earth's remaining forest resources (Rapport sur l'état d'avancement du projet d'évaluation des ressources forestières en 1990). The FAO experts compiled the data from such sources as national statistics, satellite images and cartographic research and a methodology based on a selection of samples. The figures obtained, which are provisional, concern forest cover and deforestation for the 62 countries which comprise practically all of the tropical forest zone, as well as certain dry areas.

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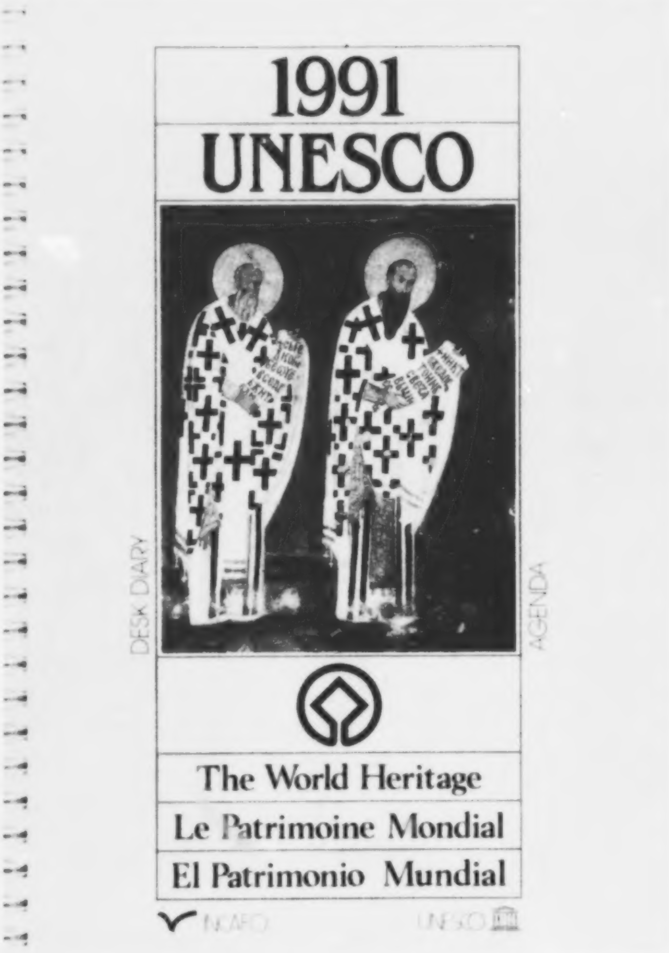
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Seeing the forest for the trees

The threat to the world's rainforests has been been making headlines for several years, and yet their destruction continues (pp.9-10). Poverty and hunger are at the core of the problem and it is only by tackling these issues that the forests can be saved. To achieve this, a new approach is required - an approach that allows rainforests to be tapped for their enormous wealth without being destroyed, a concept known as sustainable development. Unesco projects in Madagascar and Peru (pp.11 and 13) for example, are developing new farming techniques that will provide more food to the impoverished and starving population while stopping slash and burn practices. Debt-for-nature swaps (p.14) are another method being investigated to alleviate the crushing financial burden that pushes many governments to use forests as short-term money spinners. And of course, vital research programmes are underway to fully document the vast array of species stocked in these tropical treasure troves (pp. 15-16).

In the tropics, the forests are dying. They will have completely disappeared in less than a hundred years if their destruction continues at its present pace.

Although the experts may bicker over the figures, and although a margin of error in the assessments is inevitable, the rough estimates put forward are alarming.

The rain forests cover almost 30 million square kilometres, of which approximately half are in the Amazon Basin and a tenth in Zaire. According to the latest FAO figures (cf. pp. 6 and 7), deforestation is progressing every year at a rate close to 170,000 square kilometres, or the combined surface area of England and Wales. In 1980, "only" 110,000 square kilometres were affected by deforestation. This means that the annual rate of destruction has increased from 0.6 per cent ten years ago to more than one per cent today. And that is only a world average. What's more, taking the world as a whole, less than one-tenth of the deforested areas are being replanted. Rain forests are little more than a memory in the Caribbean and Australia. In West Africa, Central America and Southern Asia, more than two-thirds have already been destroyed.

The primary reason for this headlong destruction is the craving for new farmland, firstly for crops - more than one third of deforestation worldwide - and secondly for livestock. In Brazil, for example, nearly 10 million hectares of forests in the Amazon basin are deliberately destroyed by fire each year. This pressure for land reclamation is exerted either by those with economic power, whether national or international, who bring all the might of their wealth and technology into play, or, conversely, by the mad scramble of the famished millions whose plight is due to farming systems that are too inflexible to let them eke out a living

Hunger, poverty and the quest for short term profits are the main reason behind the increasing destruction of our tropical forests (Photo © M. Gunther/BIOS).

elsewhere or, quite simply, to over-population. More than two billion people live between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, where the population growth rate sometimes exceeds 3 per cent. They see the rain forests as their only escape route from starvation, a fabulous new frontier beyond which lies an unspoiled El Dorado, luxuriant and just waiting to be conquered. Here, the old adage, *"poverty is nature's worst enemy"*, comes into its own.

For the local populations, trees are also a direct source of fuel, in the form of firewood or charcoal, needed for cooking food. Over four-fifths of tree-felling is carried out for this purpose. In the space of a decade for example, tree cover within a radius of a 100 kilometres around New Delhi has been reduced by 60 per cent. Elsewhere, big corporations have bought concessions of 7 million hectares in order to fell trees for export to Europe and Japan. One-tenth of the timber for this market comes from the tropical forests, including half from South-East Asia (especially Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines). In fact, the volume of timber extracted annually has increased five-fold between 1950 and today. Last but not least, the mines, dams, oilfields, roads and railways which follow, when they do not precede, the invasion by capital, machines and labour, finish off the exploitation of the forest itself or resources derived from it.

Unbelievably complex and extremely fragile

Such exploitation, in whatever form, is synonymous today with desertification. *"A tropical forest can be replaced only if the conditions for its renewal are preserved,"* says Ignacy Sachs, ecological development expert and economic adviser to Unesco. And yet, more often than not, this is far from being the case. The luxuriance of animal and plant life conceals an unbelievably complex and extremely fragile ecological system. Interaction between thousands of animal and plant species is so varied and so intense that the slightest disturbance, however marginal it may seem, can unravel the whole fabric. The paradox is that these forests generally grow on poor soil. In point of fact, they derive more sustenance from their own decay, which constantly provides the nutrients they need for their renewal, than they actually draw from the land they occupy. Consequently, after land clearance, yields, especially for single-crop varieties which are always less robust, decline at a breath-taking rate. The tropical rains "leach" the soils which the degeneration of the crops has laid bare, hydrological systems are disrupted, exchanges between the new vegetation and the atmosphere are profoundly altered and all this brings about climatic changes not just locally but on also continental and even a world scale.

The industrial exploitation of tropical hardwoods also has frequently disastrous effects. Usually, only a few trees, four or five on average - are felled per hectare, but when they fall to the ground, they destroy six or seven times their number, and, above all, the cutting down and removal of the timber disrupts a third of the area of the ecosystem where the felling operations take place. This means that the woodland does not grow back as it was. Forestry work also often opens the way for the extension of farming activities.

Thus, the so-called "development" of tropical forests amounts to a plundering operation which can only lead to an uncontrolled spiral. The virtually immediate exhaustion of cleared or developed land invariably leads to a fresh assault on the forests still intact, which are therefore shrinking before our very eyes.

In the countries of the North, there is fairly widespread awareness of the global consequences of this destruction. It certainly contributes to the notorious "greenhouse effect", although scientists disagree over how far it is to blame. What is most important is the fact that the biogenetic diversity of the forests is unique. They contain more than half of all the species in the world - probably some ten million or so - of which fewer than half are thought to have been recorded today. Can we stand by and let this genetic heritage disappear and allow this treasure trove to be lost forever ? Admittedly, these resources are still virtually untapped, except by the pharmaceutical industry. But what about tomorrow ? Less than a century ago, nobody attached the slightest importance to oil ...

In the countries of the South, priorities are determined by the terrible constraints, internal as well as external, with which they have to contend in the present. They have, for example, to find the means of feeding, without delay, hundreds of millions of undernourished people, at a time when all available land is already occupied to capacity or set aside for "modern" farming methods. They have to repay their debt, and forestry products bring in foreign currency while, more often than not, the State need not bear the cost of the necessary investments.

"Ecologically cautious management"

The problem of the rain forests is a patchwork of politics, economics, society, ecology and even ethnology at local, regional and international levels, as much in the short as in the long term. Simplistic solutions are therefore to be avoided at all costs. Nonetheless, as Ignacy Sachs puts it, *"we shall not protect the tropical forests and the well-being of the planet by condemning hundreds of millions of human beings to a slow, or not so slow, death. We must therefore embark on a more ecologically cautious management of this ecosystem, while waging war on poverty at the same time. That's where the real problem lies."* In other words, we must work simultaneously for conservation - hence the need for protected reserves - and for development in what is left of the tropical forests. Development will involve *"the invention of agro-sylvo-pastoral systems adapted to the ecosystem, which actually fit into its structure rather than destroy it, and which extract maximum benefit from its natural resources, thanks to the most advanced research and to frontier technologies."*

With this aim in mind, the role of Unesco, and its Man and the Biosphere programme (MAB) in particular, is *"to get exchanges of research and experience under way with a view to speeding up the 'eco-development' of the tropical forests, governed by three criteria : social value, first and foremost to the people living in them, ecological caution and economic efficiency."* That, according to Ignacy Sachs, is quite simply the only intelligent path to take.

René Lefort

MADAGASCAR : DEVELOPMENT FOR CONSERVATION

Up to 200,000 hectares of Madagascar's forests go up in smoke each year through slash-and-burn cultivation. Less than 12,000 hectares are replanted with trees. As a result, only one-fifth of the island, compared with three-quarters just a few centuries ago, still has forest cover. Can even that be saved without depriving farmers of an essential source of food?

"A solution has to be found that suits everyone ..." Professor Roland Albignac, an agronomist and biologist equally at home in the field and the laboratory, cannot accept that Malagasy farmers should have to foot the bill for protecting the forest. Consequently, the underlying philosophy of the Unesco project he manages in the Mananara biosphere reserve rests on a bargain struck between the locals and the "conservationists": the farmers stop clearing the forest to till fresh land in return for help to improve the output of areas not at ecological risk. In this way, development becomes a tool for conservation, and vice-versa ...

An irrigation channel for rice fields is constructed in the Mananara Reserve (Photo Roland Albignac).

Locals wary

Slash-and-burn on the higher slopes, known locally as "tavy", has been the fast-growing (almost 3 percent annually), and hungry population's response to the poor productivity of the lower-lying land. Moreover, population is patchily distributed : fertile areas exist that are virtually uninhabited. These difficulties are compounded by declining terms of trade, a shortage of ready capital and opposition to change and innovation.

This latter characteristic explains the suspicion with which the 42,000 people concerned greeted, in late 1988, the creation of the Mananara biosphere reserve - a suspicion heightened by the fact that of the 140,000 hectares comprising the reserve, 23,000, situated at the eastern extremity of the island, were to be completely protected. This, among other things, meant that the practice of "tavy" would be prohibited. Moreover, there was widespread fear that the "vasas" (the Whites) would try to appropriate lands for which no official title deeds existed ...

In short, a lot of explaining and convincing had to be done. *"We would arrive in a village,"* recalls one of the Malagasy project workers, *"and speak to just a few people, the elders and one or two of the leaders. That was all. We would come back a week later and find a crowd. Everybody was there, even people living 15 or 20 kilometres away, waiting to hear more about the reserve. Then we really started talking. The people were eager to have technicians there to put forward solutions, because they felt abandoned."* And on to this idea of escaping abandonment was grafted, little by little, the notion that the creation of the reserve meant not only that certain traditional practices would be outlawed, but also - and more importantly - that aid would be forthcoming for development which would make the traditions themselves obsolete. As a result, requests for assistance came flooding in.

The project team, comprising some 30 full-time workers, was unable to fulfil requests for teachers or health workers, for which longer-term financing could not be guaranteed. On the other hand, requests for agricultural aid were given vigorous support, particularly where increasing the output of rice was concerned : bringing one hectare of lowland paddy into production meant protecting 14 hectares of hill forest, since the two areas would yield the same amount of rice.

Encouraging results

This improvement depends essentially on the construction of mini-reservoirs to flood the fields and thereby increase productivity. The project provides the knowhow and equipment, both in desperately short supply, and the local population furnishes the labour. An identical approach is adopted to the improvement of village livestock - which can become a significant source of income - and to action in the education and health sectors. In all cases, community participation is a priority, since the project aims for a process of rural development driven by local energies, with the community ultimately taking over the whole enterprise. To this end, a board of management comprising local councillors and business people has been appointed to supervise the operation.

In 1989, after only one year, the area of burned-out land had been reduced by half. On the strength of these encouraging results, the experiment is to be extended to three other parts of Madagascar, involving more than 150,000 people and an area of almost 800,000 hectares. Funds are increasing too: $ 1.7 million from UNDP for 1988-1991 and $1 million from the World Bank for 1989-1996, as well as a contribution from the Malagasy Government to cover a substantial amount of local costs.

Assessing results, however, should be done carefully. The farmers are committing themselves rapidly and seriously to this project because it brings immediate advantages. Whether they are yet convinced that the preservation of the tropical forest around them is, in the long-term, a matter of vital importance ... remains yet to be seen. ■

PERU : FOOD FROM THE FOREST

The Amazonian forests of Peru cover an area of 740,000 km^2, or an area 1.4 times the size of France. The forest has enormous potential, but its progressive conversion into farmland has led to the destruction of more than five and a half million hectares - of which only one million are still being cultivated, the rest having been rendered wasteland.

How to continue farming the forest, without threatening the ecological balance? Such is the goal of a vast project undertaken by Unesco in Africa, Asia and Latin America, including Peru, with the financial support of the Federal Republic of Germany.

In Peru, the threat to the forest comes not from a voracious logging industry, but a starving population. According to Segundo Inuma, an Amazonian Indian and member of the indigenous community of Yaguas, those people not involved in timber cutting tend to see the forest as a *"barrier to food production"*, and a *"frontier for agricultural expansion"*. *"You can't eat trees"* they argue. Inuma, one of the 200,000 Indians belonging to nearly 60 ethnic groups in the Peruvian part of the Amazon Basin, thinks that the natural forest will not be safe until a way is found of using it to produce food.

Increasing food imports

The statistics clearly illustrate the problem: 23 percent of the population is undernourished; life expectancy is barely 57 years and infant mortality among children under the age of one year is up to nine percent. On top of this, the population is growing at an annual rate of 2.5 percent and has multiplied almost four times over in the last 50 years. With more mouths to feed, Peru is becoming more and more dependent on food imports: of the 10 million metric tons of food needed each year, one and a half million are imported. Between 1980 and 1985, Peru spent two and a half billion dollars, roughly 12 per cent of its foreign debt, on food imports. Since then the situation has only worsened.

José Rojas, Rector of the Universidad Nacional de la Amazonia Peruana (UNAP), says that the decision to base agricultural and forestry development in Peru on "western development", i.e. oriented towards economic growth and foreign markets, is responsible for the hunger, civil war and environmental degradation. Rojas points out, for example, that *"over the past 25 years, agricultural research and development has concentrated on only seven plant species"*.

"Research to improve food production has been completely unrealistic, preference being given to meeting foreign demands while the culture and needs of the Amazonian population has gone unnoticed. The same applies to forestry: timber has been the only product of interest, and attention has been concentrated on timber species that are in most demand on the western market. The 11,000 other species of plants used in the Amazonian part of Peru, and the indigenous knowledge of their properties has been completely ignored," he adds.

For example, palms are one of the main features of the landscape in the Peruvian part of the Amazon Basin. There are some 1,300 species with a density of 5,625 per hectare. They play an important role in the local economy, basically as a source of food. But official statistics and development plans do not take this resource into account. Of these palms, the *"aguaje"* (Lat: Mauritia flexuosa) makes the greatest contribution to the regional economy. It has a high nutritional value; is an excellent substitute for cow's milk; and its fruit, like its other byproducts, features in all aspects of the daily life of the Amazonian peoples. The *"aguaje"* grows in a homogenous ecological system called *"aguajales"*, which is subject to flooding and unsuitable for agriculture. In the Peruvian part of the Amazon Basin, *"aguajales"* cover almost 8,000,000 hectares - or France and West Germany together.

The Unesco project, which goes under the title of the "Sustained Management of Amazonian Forests", is designed to evaluate such resources along with invaluable indigenous knowledge, and integrate it within the framework of a new science and technology policy in line with the Organization's concept of *"endogenous development"*. Attention is being paid to plants that are ignored by official institutions but very important to local people - providing basic products such as food and medicine and not just timber. Research carried out so far under the project has revealed the existence of more than 100 species of tree, like the *"aguaje"*, that yield fruit with a high nutritive value, such as the *"Sacha mangua"* (Grias neubertii) which produces a cheese-like fruit, rich in vegetable protein as well as vitamin A and iron essential for countering malnutrition. Also within the project framework is a pilot experiment being directed at schools, to modify eating habits, and the agricultural community, in an effort to promote agroforestry. These "new" fruit are also being introduced in public cantines recently created by the French organization "Médecins du monde".

Seen in such a light, tropical forests become much more than timber stands and potential ploughland. They are also marvelous orchards.

Julio Ruiz Murrieta and
Juan Saavedra Andaluz
Peru

SWAPPING DEBT FOR NATURE

Saving the world's tropical forests requires not only goodwill, but a lot of hard cash. The alarming degradation of these precious areas is in large part due to poverty, debt, ignorance, lack of ownership rights and control, and the overall weakness of national and institutional frameworks to properly manage these zones. One of the, admittedly controversial, avenues being explored to mobilize the necessary resources is that of debt-for-nature swaps.

"The underlying principle is that a debt-holder negotiates with a debtor country on a deal where the former agrees to wipe out the debt in exchange for a commitment by the latter to invest in local currency in conservation and natural resource management projects in the debtor country," explains Bernd Von Droste, Director of Unesco's Ecological Sciences Division. *"Generally, three main actors take part in the process: the debtor country, the investor which buys the debt and the creditor bank that sells it."* Though the idea is simple and straightforward, many difficult obstacles may need to be successfully addressed before such an agreement is reached.

So far, about $100 million have been exchanged in debt conversion agreements and a number of Unesco's international network of biosphere reserves have been involved, including the Beni Biosphere Reserve in Bolivia which covers the Chimanes Rain Forest; La Amistad Biosphere Reserve in Costa Rica and the Galapagos and Yasuni Biosphere Reserves in Ecuador.

Conservation and land rights

"Costa Rica is one of the most ambitious debt-for-nature programmes yet, and it is working well" says Von Droste. To date more than $70 million of debt has been exchanged there for some $40 million in bonds, favouring a range of conservation and development activities in six priority target areas. At La Amistad, for example, the National Biodiversity Institute of Costa Rica is concentrating on measures such as biological diversity and watershed protection. *"Informal discussions are now underway on additional transactions for much larger areas in Costa Rica,"* adds Von Droste.

The Beni Reserve debt swap, on the other hand, is at the centre of a heated debate between Bolivian Indians and the logging industry. The agreement was signed in 1987 between the Bolivian government and Conservation International, a Washington based non-profit, non-governmental organization. Under the swap, part of the forest was to be used for scientific research, much of which is being carried out by the Smithsonian Institution and Unesco, while another zone was set aside for "sustainable" timber production. The Bolivian Indians, who live in and from the Chimanes Rainforest in the reserve, say the deal ignores their land claims and has led to uncontrolled exploitation of the valuable timber stands there. Their cause has been taken up by the worldwide charity for tribal peoples, Survival International.

"Any type of debt for nature swap should take the land rights of indigenous people into account," says the organization's South American campaigns officer, Jonathon Mazower. *"The Indians of the Chimanes forest have suddenly found themselves in the middle of a logging zone. Roads are being built which are driving out the animals and birds the Indians have always depended on, while the soil erosion caused by the loggers has polluted rivers. The seven logging companies working the area have not respected the conditions of the agreement, and, for example, have not begun any replanting to replace the mahogany trees they are taking out. The agreement is thus resulting in destruction rather than protection."* The Bolivian government is now negotiating with the Indians to resolve the situation.

Despite these problems Unesco remains convinced that debt-for-nature exchanges have great potential. The research programme in Beni, for example, has seen the establishment of a network of representative plots of plant and animal communities for comparative ecological research. The programme also includes field training for young scientists and regular workshops.

In Ecuador, the debt-swap arrangement has enabled the Charles Darwin Foundation to implement aspects of a management plan for the Galapagos islands, including tighter control on tourist movements and patrolling of offshore marine areas.

Clearly it is too early to draw up a balance sheet on the debt-for-nature concept. Benefits may accrue in both economic and environmental terms. However, potential disadvantages, such as sovereignty issues, a higher inflation rate and public reaction against any sort of debt negotiations remain to be resolved .

"Unesco is very much for these swaps, provided they are properly handled," says Von Droste. *"Although the debt-for-nature swaps are relatively small compared to the overall Third World debt of more than $1.3 trillion,"* he points out, *"the $100 million so far mobilized is a significant contribution to these areas where funds for conservation are otherwise not available."*

Malcolm Hadley
Peter Dogse

BIOLOGICAL TREASURE TROVE

At least two-thirds of all species exist only in the tropics, half of them only in rain forests where the great majority have never been described. As forests disappear, countless species, many with invaluable medical, economic and other potential, are lost forever. Two Unesco initiatives in the Asia Region are helping scientists save this treasure.

Botany 2000

Two years ago, in 1988, Neville Marchant, a West-Australian botanist, was asked to do a survey of Southeast Asian herbaria, or plant museums, particularly those in Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.

His report, forwarded to Unesco, identified considerable problems for scientists working in those institutions, the greatest being a lack of money which hindered basic work on identifying regional plants.

"Tropical regions have historically been neglected by botanical science," said Dr. Marchant. *"The flora of Britain, consisting of about 1,200 species, is well-documented. Yet in Indonesia there are possibly 20,000 species of plants. In fact about 80 % of Asia's botanical resources are undocumented."*

"In the past," he explains, *"the industrialized nations had all the botanists. Since materials went back to Europe, Asian botanists are still forced to go there to consult collections of their own country's plants. Moreover, poorer countries find it hard to provide expensive books, journals and library facilities for their scientists."*

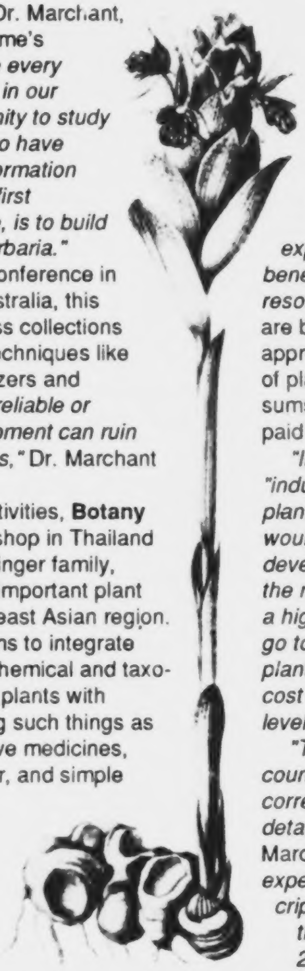
In response to such problems, Unesco Director-General, Federico Mayor, himself a biochemist, launched **Botany 2000 - Asia** at the Sixth Asian Symposium on Medicinal Plants and Spices in Bandung (Indonesia) in January 1989.

"Our aim," said Dr. Marchant, one of the programme's initiators, *"is to give every taxonomic botanist in our region the opportunity to study further afield, and to have access to good information and specimens. A first objective, therefore, is to build up and improve herbaria."*

Accordingly, a conference in Perth, Western Australia, this October, will discuss collections and preservation techniques like low-tech deep freezers and dehumidifiers. *"Unreliable or inappropriate equipment can ruin precious specimens,"* Dr. Marchant said.

Among other activities, **Botany 2000** plans a workshop in Thailand next year on the Ginger family, *Zingiberaceae*, an important plant group in the Southeast Asian region.

Botany 2000 aims to integrate pharmacological, chemical and taxonomic research on plants with potential for making such things as insecticides, curative medicines, including for cancer, and simple natural remedies.



***Zingiber officinale*, one of about 1500 species in the tropical Ginger family.**

"It's a very applied approach," said Dr. Marchant. *"The more we know about plants, the better we can conserve them. We must have a 'handle' on plants, put scientific names to them, and this requires taxonomic (classification) research."*

"Moreover, the economic exploitation of tropical flora should benefit the people who own the resource," he said. Thus governments are being urged to adopt a tougher approach towards export for research of plant material. At present, paltry sums - in some cases bribes - are paid for samples.

"Instead," said Dr. Marchant, *"industrialized countries could obtain a plant free-of-charge. But in return they would take a student from that developing country to participate in the research and, in the process, earn a higher degree. If they don't want to go to that trouble, the price of the plant should be $ 50,000, about the cost of training a student to PhD level."*

"The key to regulating trade in a country's plant material is the ability to correctly identify its plants and the details of their exploitation," said Dr. Marchant, who concluded, *"Such expertise will only be met if the descriptive sciences are promoted through networks like Botany 2000."*

Regional Network for the Chemistry of Natural Products

Another Unesco initiative has actually been strengthening cooperation in the field for over 15 years. This is the Regional Network for the Chemistry of Natural Products in Southeast Asia, set up in 1975 to promote the exchange of information, resources, and goodwill among chemists in 10 member countries : Australia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Unesco's first network, it rapidly became a showcase for the networking principle.

Prof. Jack Cannon (see page 4), an organic chemist at the University of Western Australia and Australia's representative on the Network from 1978 to 1982, sees three reasons for its success. *"Firstly, because its focus, the chemistry of natural products, is directly relevant to the people of developing countries who depend on medicinal plants for their primary health care ; secondly, because research in this area leads easily to advances in other disciplines, such as botany and pharmacology ; and thirdly, because working on indigenous plants allows scientists control of both material and pace of research, without fear of aggressive competition from industrialized nations."*

Over 1,500 young Asian scientists will attest that the Network's workshops have provided valuable training in chemical research techniques. Twenty-eight such workshops, held in eight out of 10 member countries, have been held so far.

In addition three major Asian Symposia on Medicinal Plants and Spices (ASOMPS), the most recent held in Bandung (Indonesia) in January last year, were attended by over 400 participants on each occasion.

Free services

The Network, financed under Unesco's regular budget and by Japan under a funds-in-trust agreement with the Organization, also provides services on a no-charge basis to enable less well-endowed institutions to get help from better equipped ones.

Australian laboratories alone analyse over 700 samples each year, while others in the Philippines and Thailand provide biological screening of isolated compounds in medicinal plants. Not least, a major effort is made to develop low-cost, locally produced equipment such as a recent innovation in the area of x-ray crystallography, through the introduction of new micro-computer based software.

Unesco's Regional Network has also served as a model for similar organizations like the Network for the Chemistry of Biologically Important Natural Products (NCBNP), set up in 1982 with Australian funding.

"This network, intended as an adjunct to Unesco's, enables scientists from countries on our doorstep - Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand - to come here, or send samples for sophisticated analysis," said Prof. Cannon, now Chairman of NCBNP. *"It also makes it possible to send our scientists for short-term work up there."*

"Despite their different orientation, fundamental beliefs are shared by the related science networks in the Asian region," he said, *"many scientists feel a sense of urgency about the need to identify and protect the world's natural resources before they are lost."*

In fact, when it comes to the clearing of tropical forests, Prof. Cannon puts matters even more bluntly. *"It's like fishing with dynamite,"* he says. *"If you fish that way, you get one good feed and that's all you get."*

"The ecological and environmental problems of the Third World," Prof. Cannon insisted, *"must be solved if the industrialized world is to survive."*

Regional Networks, he believes, are one way of creating a "critical mass" of trained and informed scientists who may one day solve such problems.

Victoria Laurie, Perth

>>>> *Division of Basic Sciences*

To find out more ...

Four titles relating to tropical forests appear in the new illustrated, hardback Man and the Biosphere Series published by Unesco and Parthenon Publishing, including:

An Amazonian Rainforest: (Vol. 2) by C.F Jordan, this book focusses on forest ecology and resource use in a nutrient stressed ecosystem at San Carlos de Rio Negro in Venezuela.

Exploiting the Tropical Rainforest: (Vol. 3) by D. Lamb, presents a case study of a large-scale, clear-felling timber operation in the lowland rainforests of Papua New Guinea and suggests lessons that can be learned from the project that are relevant to forest managers elsewhere in the tropical world.

Rain Forest Regeneration and Management: (Vol. 6) by A. Gomez-Pompa, T.C Whitmore and M. Hadley, this volume explores the management implications of present scientific knowledge on rainforest regeneration through a series of case studies.

Reproductive Ecology of Tropical Forest Plants: (Vol. 7) by K. Bawa and M. Hadley, this book reviews recent developments in this area, examines how insights gained from reproductive ecology can be helpful in the management of tropical forest resources and signposts directions for future research.

Food and Nutrition in the African Rain Forest: a semi-popular account of the findings of a multi-disciplinary research team working in Central Africa. Published by Unesco in August 1990. 96 p., including 16 p. of colour plates.

Water-Related Issues and problems of the humid tropics and other warm humid regions: a 32-page-illustrated booklet published by Unesco's International Hydrological Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and based on an international colloquium held in Townsville (Australia) in July 1989.

Contributing to sustained resource use in the humid and sub-humid tropics - some research approaches and insights: MAB Digest 3, written by Malcolm Hadley and Kathrin Schreckenberg, this 59-page booklet presents an overview of MAB's activities in tropical forests and savannas as well as the programme's future directions in this area. Unesco, 1989.

Debt-for-nature exchanges and biosphere reserves: experiences and potential: MAB Digest 6, written by Bernd Von Droste and Peter Dogse, presents the pros and cons and this new method of conservation. Unesco, 1990.

Phytopractices in tropical regions - a preliminary survey of traditional crop improvement techniques: by Y. Aumeeruddy and F. Pinglo, presents a compilation of traditional plant manipulation techniques in tropical regions with the aim of improving agricultural production in these zones. Unesco/Laboratoire de Botanique Tropicale, 1988.

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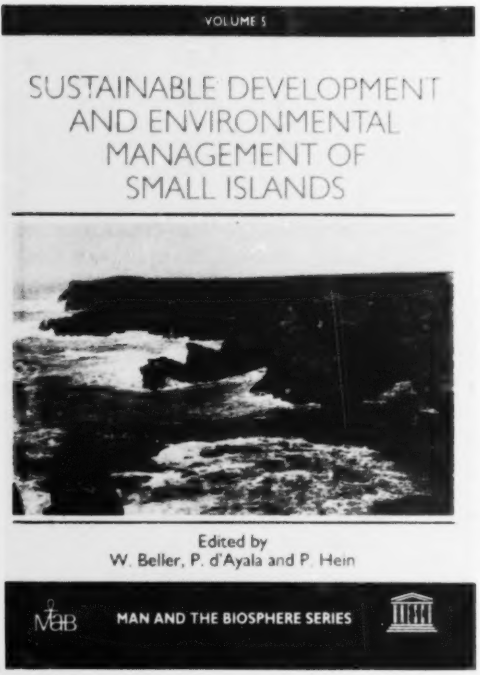


VOLUME 5

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT OF SMALL ISLANDS

Edited by
W. Beller, P. d'Ayala and P. Hein

MAB MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE SERIES

Cover photo : Ouessant (Unesco/L.Brigand).

BOOKS

Sustainable Development and Environmental Management of Small Islands.

This book, the fifth in a new Man and the Biosphere (MAB) series, is aimed at people who, in a scientific or political way, are involved in the affairs of small islands. It will be of certain interest to concerned citizens of these areas as well. To help solve the problems of islands which, like endangered species of animals, have limited resources upon which to draw for survival, the 30 authors wield the disciplines of economics, ecology, geography, anthropology and environmental sciences, and have also drawn upon the cultures of 19 countries in five ocean basins. The book comprises three parts : firstly, issues relating to islands in general, secondly, case studies of particular islands and island groups, and thirdly, a combination of the first two into recommendations for specific geographic regions.

Sustainable Development and Environmental Management of Small Islands, edited by W. Beller, P. d'Ayala, and P. Hein. Unesco/ Parthenon Publishing, 1990, 419 pp., 340 FF.

Publications and periodicals of the Organization are on sale at the Unesco Bookshop, or by order from Unesco Press, 7 place de Fontenoy, 75700 Paris, and in Member States through national distributors.

Seagrass research methods

Most shallow, sheltered soft-bottomed marine coastlines and estuaries support seagrass meadows, grazed by herbivorous fishes and invertebrates like sea urchins, by green turtles and sea cows (sirenians). The study of seagrasses is, however, a relatively new field. Indeed, as Carla Helffrich writes in her introduction, the 1st International Seagrass Workshop (Leiden, Netherlands, 1973), which she co-ordinated, was attended by "Nearly all the seagrass scientists alive - who fit quite comfortably into one middle-sized room." Since that time, research has proliferated and methods evolved accordingly. This volume, ninth in Unesco's "Monographs in Oceanographic Methodology" series, was, therefore, initiated by the Division of Marine Sciences to meet the needs of specialists for a review and a standardization of methods for the study of seagrasses and associated ecosystems.

Seagrass research methods, edited by Ronald C. Phillips and C. Peter McRoy, Unesco, 1990, Monographs on oceanographic methodology 9, illus., graphs, bibliog, 210 pp., 160 FF.

Problems of sociology in education

Written by Roger Girod, Professor of Sociology at the University of Geneva, this concise and very readable work examines some of the major problems that arise in the sociology of education and sheds light on the methods frequently employed in studying them. It is concerned with "invisible" or "real" level of education, that is, the composite knowledge which individuals actually possess but which has no formal expression. Professor Girod sets out to show that formal and real levels of education often bear little or no relation to one another. He also examines the problem of the inequality of opportunity from the point of view of access to education, in both its real and formal aspects. The book presents a formidable challenge to traditional views of education and offers fresh perspectives on its study.

Problems of sociology in education, by Roger Girod, Unesco/Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 1990. Prepared for the IBE "Educational Sciences" series, 155 pp., 200 FF.

PERIODICALS

Impact

The Computer in the Service of Science. Over the last 20 years, the computer has had a tremendous impact on scientific research worldwide. Manipulations and analyses which used to need the services of specialist computer departments or units, can now be carried out by the individual researcher at his or her workbench. As a result, the effects of informatics on the conduct of scientific research have been profound. **Impact** (No. 156) examines this relationship, with examples drawn from the fields of plant biology, molecular genetics, chemistry, environmental science and clinical medicine.

Nature & Resources

Managing the coastal environment. By the year 2000, half of the world's population is expected to live in coastal areas, a particularly sensitive part of our environment. This issue (No. 2, 1990) of **Nature & Resources** examines the implications of this demographic shift for the management of littoral zones and their resources. Articles explore mangrove resources, small-island sustainability, the similarities and differences between the Caribbean and Pacific coastal marine systems, and - using Australia's Great Barrier Reef as an example - suggest concrete approaches to the management and safeguard of a nation's natural environment.

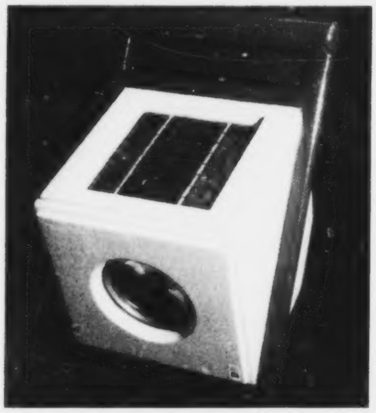
The Unesco Courier

The Automobile : Machine and Myth. The automobile is the supreme emblem of modern societies. On the one hand it holds a powerful appeal to the imagination. On the other it is a mainspring of industrial economics. It has helped to determine the way of life of millions and to shape patterns for individual and collective behaviour that are, for better or worse, characteristic features of our century. This issue (October) examines this marriage of dream and industry, its future, and the risk we run of destroying the car's potential as an instrument of freedom by becoming its slave". It also contains an interview with Claude Levi-Strauss, the great French anthropologist, who looks back at his life's work and retraces the steps of his intellectual development.

RADIO POWER !

An exhibition of Unesco's low-cost, easy-to-make radio communications equipment proved a major attraction for participants at the fourth biennial conference of the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters, held in Dublin from August 12-18.

More than 300 people from 50 countries attended the conference, which Unesco helped to organize and finance. Subjects dealt with by the conference focussed on the right to communicate, the concept and role of community radio around the world and the development of projects for ongoing international co-operation and exchange.



Unesco's solar powered radio receiver - ideal for developing nations (Photo Unesco).

ASIAN FILM INDUSTRY IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The establishment of a network for the exchange of information and documentation, the creation of national film centres and the introduction of Asian film sections at international film festivals, were some of the recommendations made at a Unesco-sponsored seminar on promoting Asian cinema, which was held in New Delhi from August 27-30.

The seminar, organized by the film quarterly, Cinemaya, and attended by personalities from nearly 20 countries, also urged that an updated cinema guide containing statistics, data, capsule reviews and filmographies, be published annually and that *"Asian films of creative expression"* be telecast on all television stations in the region.

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Opening up a world of books for kids

Few would dispute India's claim to possessing one of the oldest children's literatures in the world. The Panchatantra, a collection of Indian animal fables written over 2000 years ago, were extensively read both within the country and throughout the world in at least a dozen different translations. The varied and humorous Jataka stories in Sanskrit and Pali in which the future Buddha appears as a king, an outcast, a god, an elephant, have not only been read but sculpted on temples and painted on walls. And then of course, there is the sumptuous body of myths, legends and folk tales that crowd the Indian imagination. In fact, the story telling tradition is the very warp and woof of India's social fabric.

With so deep and rich a source, one would expect the country to boast of a thriving children's book culture, of healthy reading habits, now that the oral tradition is being replaced by the written word. Sadly, the state of affairs tells a different story. India has over 102 million school-going children between the ages of 6 and 17 and only 50 full-fledged public libraries to cater to their needs. In overall book production, India ranks only 17th in the world, with a total of 17,000 titles in English and the country's several languages ; as for public libraries, there are a mere 25,000 for a population which is expected to reach the billion mark shortly. Worse, only 500 of these have children's sections - less than a drop in the ocean for the vast, young readership waiting to be tapped.

Parents reluctant to buy books

The promotion of reading habits depends a great deal on the availability of books at affordable rates as well as libraries in schools (currently only 10% of the country's 740,000 schools are equipped with libraries) and librarians and parents who foster a book culture. Unfortunately, says Mrs Surekha Panandikar, a writer of children's stories and textbooks and one of the pillars of the Association of Writers and Illustrators for Children - AWIC - parents are thoroughly reluctant to buy even cheap books for their kids, yet think nothing of providing them with expensive clothes and toys and video movies.

It is precisely to regenerate a spirit of literature and books lost over the years that the Children's Book Trust was established in 1964 by India's most famous illustrator T. Shankar Pillai. The CBT set the trend for a high standard of book publishing. Pillai was also the founder of the AWIC in 1981, providing the Association with office space and books at a discount.

In view of the basic and relevant, if modest work done by the AWIC, Unesco gave it a $5,000 grant last year through its Participation Programme. Elaborating on the strengths and ideals of this movement, Mrs Panandikar explained that the AWIC was set up as a forum for promoting and developing creative literature for children in India. It organizes workshops, seminars and competitions for writers and illustrators, publishes a quarterly journal, arranges book talks and has established lending libraries for children.

The AWIC was built on enthusiasm and an immense care for what children read.

"School librarians, whose guidance and encouragement are crucial, offer kids little help in selecting the right book or inculcating a love of reading," lamented Mrs Panandikar. *"And then, what 's there doesn't get to the kids either because librarians are afraid that books will be misused or lost."*

To counter this malaise, members of the AWIC began gathering books from their own members and persuading publishing houses to donate sets of newly published children's books. Thus were formed ten informal libraries at members' homes, open twice a week for two hours for neighbourhood children and for a throwaway fee of Rs 2/- (approx. 80 centimes) a month.

A network of libraries

A four-member committee was appointed for book selection. Comics were generally banned because *"children do not graduate to other kinds of books and besides, comics contain plenty of violence."* Children were presented with little diaries in which to jot down their opinions which became invaluable indicators of taste and were kept in view when making selections. Books were exchanged among libraries once a month to have a regular flow of new stock.

The AWIC has 21 such outlets for children in Delhi and 7 in other states. Their scope, however, is not limited to lending books and reading only. For enthusiasm to be maintained a few activities have been organized. Every three months, the 25-30 children members of each library take part in competitions that include narrating stories in front of parents, elocution, quizzes and illustrating tales. Not surprisingly, more girls than boys (the ratio is 7/3) borrow books and conscientiously hand in their comments. *"Adventure stories,"* says Mrs Panandikar, *"are the hot favourites in the 8-12 age group. Science fiction is popular and so is non-fiction."*

During a seminar organized last year which Unesco helped sponsor an illustrated dictionary for children was released and for the very first time an exhibition of illustrated books for children was held. Original art works of illustrators were also displayed.

Humble though these efforts may be and often unsung, they are herculean in terms of the time given voluntarily by AWIC's dedicated staff. The job of the writer and illustrator in India has evolved in bleak conditions. *"There is no training in art schools for book designing for children. Illustrators have no copyright on their work, no royalty. Unused work is thrown away by publishers and their (the illustrators') names frequently don't figure in the books. Writers have no idea how their books are selling, whether they have been translated or won prizes."*

The AWIC regards its libraries as more than just promoters of reading habits. Their aims are much wider. *"They can become,"* writes Mrs Panandikar in the Association's journal, *"the catalysts for social change... can provide outlets for hidden talents among children."*

Indeed, she adds, they can be transformed into cultural centres teaching children traditional crafts and bringing about attitudinal changes in parents. In this International Literacy Year, the AWIC's work is a significant adjunct to the teaching of the 3 Rs. It is at once a stimulus to a catholicity of mind and a recognition of the men and women who bring pleasure to the child deprived of books or burdened with monotonous schoolwork in a competitive world.

Latika Padgaonkar

*** The Participation programme was set up in the mid 50s to provide help to Member States, Associate Members, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to set up projects covered by Unesco's mandate. This help can range from providing specialists, equipment and supplies to the publication of selected works in national languages to a direct financial contribution.**

THE KOREAN LANGUAGE COMPUTERIZED

(Photo Unesco/Arnaldo)

University graduate, Kim Gyong Hui, is one of the keys to the success of Unesco's programme to help Asia update its printing and communications industries.

At 22, she has adapted a digital fontmaker to create Korean characters on a computer. With this font the Korean Central News Agency and the International Journalists Training Centre in Pyongyang (People's Democratic Republic of Korea), both of which are supported by Unesco's International programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), will be able to modernize their operations - inserting fonts in word processors, databases and communications software to allow the transmission of news dispatches in Korean as well as printing by laser for offset reproduction.

This method will eventually replace the tedious process of picking out individual lead cast characters one by one from huge boards containing thousands of ideograms.

>>>> *International Programme for the Development of Communication*

IMPROVING LIBRARY MANAGEMENT

A special training seminar for professionals working in libraries and other information services in developing countries was held from August 28 to September 14 at Sussex University in the United Kingdom.

The participants were given practical experience on the mini-micro CDS/ISIS software for library information management. Conceived and maintained by Unesco, this multilingual software provides the necessary tools for data entry, updating, data queries and the production of high quality publications (bibliographies, index, catalogues, inventories).

>>>> *Software development applications division.*

WORLD HERITAGE FILM ADVENTURE

Eight young students from five countries left Canada on August 10 to take part in a six month Europe-Asia Race that will take them to some 20 cities and sites on Unesco's World Heritage List.

The adventure has been organized by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) in conjunction with Unesco, which has offered a $3,000 prize to the student who produces the best film-report on one of the sites.

The students, from Canada, Armenia, Belgium, Egypt and the United States, were selected from 200 candidates and, prior to leaving, were put through a training course on filming techniques offered by CBC.

Their voyage will take them to sites such as Damascus and Alep (Syria), Venice (Italy), Bath (U.K), Goa (India) and Zhoukoudian (China).

BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY WORKSHOP

The conservation of biological diversity was the subject of a training workshop organized by Unesco's Man and Biosphere programme (MAB) and the Smithsonian Institution, in Guatemala from September 3-30.

About 20 specialists from Latin America attended the workshop, which was held in the Maya de Beten reserve. Authorities in Guatemala have requested the inclusion of this area in MAB's international biosphere reserve network.

A SENSE OF PLACE?

Developing urban environments that are compatible with cultural identities is the subject of an Australian-led project endorsed by Unesco for the World Decade of Cultural Development (1988-1997).

The first phase of the project studied a cross-section of world heritage sites, symbolic urban projects and inner city rehabilitation programmes in Australia, India and Argentina - countries which are culturally different, but which are all facing difficulties within the present global economic structure. The results of the research have been published in *"A Sense of Place?"*, a 116-page illustrated book printed by the Australian Government Publishing Service (Canberra).

The project's next phase, which is now in the planning, will look at urban development in an equally varied range of countries including Vietnam and Poland.

Starting from scratch

Education in Namibia

As the world's newest nation, Namibia this month enters its seventh month of independence with the acute realization that without a massive effort to improve the education of its children, its plans for future development are doomed.

Although some 77 percent of children are enrolled in primary school, only 21 percent continue on to secondary school, while a mere two percent undertake any higher studies. Thus, the vast majority of schoolchildren drop out of school before even obtaining a school leaver's certificate. Poorly trained, without even the most basic skills, they leave school to join a growing army of unemployed youths.

In those areas where most returnees have settled, existing facilities are often insufficient, poor and ill equipped for effective learning - in many cases, children spend valuable time doing such chores as washing clothes or preparing meals (Photo UNTAG).

The legacy of apartheid

"The educational system in this country was one of those sectors which were severely affected by the apartheid system introduced by South Africa during its 70-year rule over Namibia," says Finn Reske-Nielsen, Assistant Resident Representative of the UNDP in Namibia.

"You can see the concrete effects of the poor education offered to black students in Namibia by just going outside this building and seeing all the young boys hanging around street corners. Those are not only unemployed but unemployable as well," says Nielsen.

The reasons for Namibia's education crisis are manifold, but most stem from the discriminatory educational system imposed by South Africa when it was granted a League of Nations Mandate over the country in 1920.

Most schools, especially in the rural areas, are poorly equipped and lack even the most basic materials such as books and laboratories. There are not enough class rooms and many schools run double-shifts to accommodate the 374,000 schoolgoing children.

Nowhere was the crisis more evident than last year, when for the first time, government published the global results of the standard eight examinations; 99 % of white pupils passed, while 92 % of the majority of children who live in the rural north, failed.

The reasons can be seen at a glance. Many children come to school hungry - the poorest often having had nothing to eat except sugar in a cup of hot water. To alleviate this basic problem, the Namibian Red Cross society has been running a school feeding schemes in various parts of the country for almost eight years.

On top of this, some 8,000-9,000 of Namibia's 12,000-13,000 teachers are unqualified. Themselves victims of the educational system, teachers are often only one jump ahead of their students. The average lesson consists of the class reading its textbook in unison -

the teacher stopping only to correct minor mistakes.

Added to this is the fact that the majority of Namibian children do not speak European languages at home. Only 2,036 of registered pupils speak English as their first language. Considerably more speak Afrikaans, but access to learning materials in Afrikaans is limited. Very few teachers speak English, and in the north, where English was introduced as a medium of instruction some years ago, teachers know about as much as their pupils.

Frustrated by the dictatorial application of a rigid and old-fashioned syllabus, dedicated and well-meaning teachers are demoralized, disillusioned and overwhelmed by a feeling of helplessness.

Upgrading teachers' skills

As part of its plans for a complete overhaul, Namibia's new government under SWAPO (South West Africa People Organization) earlier this year requested the UNDP to help fund a massive teacher-upgrading programme to be implemented by Unesco.

A study carried out by Unesco was commissioned by Namibia's Education Ministry and the resulting report and recommendations were submitted to the Namibian government at the end of last month. "*Unesco has advised the government to adopt a comprehensive and integrated approach to the reform of the entire educational system,*" explains Mr. Anderson Shankanga, Unesco's Co-ordinator for Educational Projects in Namibia and head of the Operational Programmes Unit for the Education Sector. "*To start with though, we are putting the accent on a major teacher training programme to upgrade teachers' skills*".

To achieve this, a number of trainers will be drawn from local, qualified teachers who will then design material for the programme to retrain the rest of their colleagues. "*Intensive in-service courses will be held during vacation periods and each teacher will have to attend and complete a certain number of these before being qualified,*" explains Mr. Shankanga. "*A core of already-qualified teachers will be used to supervise and follow-up the trainees during the term.*"

But local skilled manpower is in short supply and Namibia will need large numbers of experts and volunteers to implement the programme successfully. "*To fill this gap, Unesco has been working with United Nations Volunteers (UNV) to recruit teachers from outside Namibia to fill posts in critical areas such as maths and science,*" explains the Unesco project officer.

The shortages have been further exacerbated by the arrival, since independence, of some 50,000 returnees, including 7,000 school age children.

Unesco and the UNDP regard the programme as a big challenge. After the UN secured Namibia's peaceful independence in March this year, UN officials here are keen to see the country's development efforts meet with similar success.

"*We have never have had such a massive programme as this,*" says UNDP's Nielsen. "*Unesco helped design a large project in Zimbabwe, but what we are talking about here is something much more massive.*"

"*To train 8,000-9,000 teachers will take some years. We do not think a single donor will take it up alone, we are talking of millions of dollars. The funding will have to be discussed with a whole group of donors,*" he adds.

Namibia's government, whose members have described the country's schools as "*a disaster area*", has already put education at the top of its priority list. At a recent donor's conference in New York, a number of countries such as Sweden, Denmark, and the countries of the EEC, pledged funds to help in the effort.

As far as the Namibian government is concerned, teacher upgrading is the fastest way to correct the legacy of the past. In addition, following the Unesco report's recommendations, it plans a complete restructuring of the colonial administrative system and to introduce new curricula on par with international standards.

The changes cannot happen fast enough. While any change needs thorough planning, thousands of Namibian children are preparing to fail yet again this year.

If the present trend continues, only about 3,000 of the estimated 69,000 children who started school this year will eventually make it through to their final year. Only a handful of these will make it to university.

Urgent is not the word.

Heidi von Egidy
Windhoek/Namibia

NEW AFRICAN COUNCIL ESTABLISHED

Unesco now has a privileged ear in Africa to keep the organization up to date with developments in the social sciences. The African Council for Social and Human Sciences (CASSH) came into being on September 19, following a meeting of specialists from all over the continent in Harare (Zimbabwe).

It was set up on the initiative of Unesco, which has established similar councils in Asia and Latin America, and will act as an advisory body to the Organization.

The Council is made up of representatives from non-governmental, subregional and regional social and human science institutions and organizations in Africa. Professor Lloyd M. Sachikonye, Ph.D. in Law at the Institute of Development Studies in Harare has been appointed chairman of the new Council.

GETTING THE MEDIA IN ON THE ACT

Seventeen family planning and communications specialists met in Tunis from August 20-24 to discuss ways in which the media could support population and family welfare programmes in the Arab States.

Research has revealed high levels of knowledge on family planning but that this knowledge is not put to use. The symposium examined the possibility of involving media and communications institutes in studies to determine the causes for this gap as well as the introduction of population communication into their curricula.

The meeting, which was organized by Unesco and the Tunisian Institute of Journalism, brought together participants from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia.

Family planning : a wide gap between knowledge and practice (Photo Unesco/Dominique Roger).

JAPAN: $700,000 FOR EDUCATION

The Japanese Government will give $700,000 to the Regional Programme of Universalization and Renewal of Primary Education and Eradication of Illiteracy in Asia and the Pacific (APPEAL).

The grant, which is part of Japan's contribution to International Literacy Year, was announced by the Japanese Minister for Education, Science and Culture, Mr. Kosuke Hori, at the International Conference on Education, held in Geneva from September 3-8.

YOUTH MEETS YOUTH

Under the theme "World Encounters : from confrontation to interdependence", representatives of about 60 Non-governmental youth organizations working with Unesco held their annual conference ("collective consultation") at Headquarters from September 25 to 28.

The work of the Conference was divided into three Commissions, the first to pursue the reinforcement of East-West links already tightened at last year's meeting in the U.S.S.R.

The second Commission focused on North-South dialogue, and the third on the "Encounter between Europe and Las Americas" in the context of the celebration of the "500th Anniversary of the Encounter between Two Worlds" (1492-1992).

The 1991 consultation will be held in Bucharest, Romania.

>>>> *Youth Division*

STATUS OF THE ARTIST

The artist, taken to mean any person who *"creates, gives creative expression to, or re-creates works of art"*, including *inter alia* those covered by the various international conventions, was the object of an expert meeting at Headquarters from September 12 to 14.

At the meeting, representatives of the ILO, the EEC, the Council of Europe and NGOs were joined by officials from Sweden, Germany, France and particularly Canada, countries which have gone the farthest, through their legislation, to implement the Recommendation Concerning the Status of the Artist, adopted by Unesco's General Conference in 1980.

One of the main purposes of the meeting was to set up a Data Bank on the condition of artists, notably in matters of social security, fiscal benefits, reasonable income, working conditions, etc. as a means for encouraging wider application of the Recommendation.

"The doors between"

Over 600 delegates from 123 countries met at Unesco's 42nd International Conference on Education (Geneva, September 3-8) to refine and intensify the struggle against illiteracy. An exhibition, held in conjunction with the Conference, reflected the sum of imagination mobilized worldwide to attain the goals of International Literacy Year (ILY).

"Literacy as an act of knowledge, as a creative and a political act, is an effort to read the world and the word. Now it is no longer possible to have the text without context."

Paulo Freire's words, quoted in one of a series of booklets, *Literacy Lessons*, sums up the spirit of the exhibition.

From T-shirts and key-chains, to posters, cartoons and postage stamps, the latter from countries as diverse as Argentina, Bangladesh, Cuba, Japan, Malta and Niger - all the items on show illustrated how ILY is being celebrated around the world.

Also on display was an original lithograph offered to Unesco by the Canada Post Corporation, which introduced a major programme to promote literacy and to encourage Canadians to support this cause. An emblem of this effort, the lithograph was commissioned by the Corporation for a commemorative stamp depicting a stylized bird in flight, with graphic and numerical symbols as well as letters from various alphabets giving it texture and dimension.

One of the more original articles was a magnificent patchwork quilt. Composed of squares prepared by member associations of the International Reading Association, the gaily coloured quilt is both a work of art and an act of solidarity in the promotion of a fully literate world.

The exhibition also featured panel displays of excerpts, illustrated by the author's own telling photographs, from a new book by Krystyna Chlebowska, *Literacy for Rural Women in the Third World* - a high priority set at the Conference.

Among the many books and periodicals, was Unesco's *Literacy Lessons*, comprising 40 booklets written by education specialists from all over the world. In an eloquent plea for the planet's nearly one billion illiterates, H.S. Bhola of Indiana University (U.S.A.) writes in one of the *Lessons*.

"Of course the non-literate 'survive'. They are born. They grow up. They play. They sing. They marry. They buy and sell. They build huts and homes. They make beautiful artefacts. They have children and grandchildren. They develop deep understandings of life ..." But they are *"excluded and marginalized, as they are disallowed from joining in to define their own world and from contributing to collective knowledge, to history and to culture."*

Literacy quilt : a work of art and an act of solidarity (Photo Unesco/Dominique Roger).

ZAPAN
SINGAPORE
DENMARK
اقرا

The poet William Blake once wrote : *"There are things that are known and things that are unknown : in between are doors."* What the exhibition was trying to show was how people, in small and large countries, in both big and small ways, are trying to open some of these doors.

Maha Bulos

>>>> International Bureau of Education for a full report on ICE

Coming together...

"To provide black peoples with a forum for exchange; to restore their self-confidence ; stimulate and promote their creative spirit, while encouraging the emergence of a new historic consciousness in the black world and promoting a conscious, determined and united participation of black peoples in world civilisation." Such is the aim of the Institute of Black Peoples (IBP) which opened officially on April 10, 1990, in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso, following a constitutive assembly at which 18 African states were represented.

The adoption of this convention is the final stage of a project based on a study undertaken in 1985 by Unesco at the request of the Burkinabe government. A 10-member international technical committee, which included 7 Africans, a Haitian, a Jamaican and an American, was set up a year later to organise the April meeting.

"The consciousness of 'Black Peoples' and symbol of their reunification, the IBP also aims to contribute to the restoration and strengthening of real democracy in black states, while taking into account that freedom of thought and expression is a prerequisite for creativity and development," says Unesco representative Basile Kossou.

Three priorities

In the short term, three priorities have been agreed upon : the setting up of a data bank giving details of the some 2,000 specialists on black peoples ; the creation of a periodical, *Nomo*, which in Dogon (Mali) means "The Word" ; and the establishment of an organisation that will facilitate meetings between black cultural personalities and specialists.

The current period 1990-1991 is a transitory stage during which an interim executive committee has been given charge of overseeing the application of the decisions taken in April. The first session of Congress, the Institute's highest body, scheduled for 1992, will define aims and policy and elect an executive committee.

The bulk of IBP's resources will come from compulsory contributions from member countries and voluntary contributions and a minimum budget for the activities already sketched out has been set at 6 million dollars.

From its inception, the IBP has been able to count on Unesco's support. For Director-General Federico Mayor, the special programme "Priority Africa" is the appropriate framework for Unesco's collaboration with IBP initiatives.

Undoubtedly, the project has given intellectuals from Africa and the black diaspora some grounds for hope, but as yet a general mobilisation does not seem to have occurred. In Mali, Senegal and Burkina Faso, intellectuals have expressed some reticence about the project's using *"only the colour of one's skin as the point of departure."* IBP partisans defend their project by citing such pioneers of negritude as Senghor and Césaire, or even Senegal's late Alioune Diop, founder of the African Society for Culture and who wrote in 1959 : *"What principle can possibly justify preventing us from coming together on the basis of our common weaknesses and dangers ?"*

The Convention which created IBP is guided by a general philosophy : *"At the end of the 20th century, there now is, for all the peoples of the world, a historic necessity, a cultural imperative for the future of the civilisation of this planet, an urgent need for a policy that will actively promote international understanding and world peace and allow a positive and dynamic assumption of one's difference in a relationship with others that is both conscious and free."*

Diomansi Bombotè
BREDA/Dakar

SEARCHING FOR THE PAST IN ALGERIA

A Unesco team has begun a wide-ranging archaeological survey of south-eastern Algeria - an area rich in ruins from the Roman and Islamic periods.

The team comprises Unesco consultant, Lisa Fentress (U.S.A.) from the British School of Archaeology in Rome, and a number of young Algerian archaeologists, who will receive on-the-spot training in such modern techniques such as aerial photography.

The mission, which began on September 20, will cover between 30,000 and 40,000 square kilometres of mountainous countryside, and prepare an inventory of the archaeological material in the region. Funding for the survey has been provided by the UNDP, to the tune of $60,000.

THE ARTS IN AFRICA

How to develop the performing arts in Africa? Such was the question under discussion at a Unesco organized meeting of professionals and organizations involved in this domain, which was held in Yaounde (Cameroon) from September 3-5.

The participants stressed that "a realistic and efficient" approach had to be taken and drew up a plan of action which develops existing infrastructures rather than starting up any new *"white elephants"*. Badly needed training courses for artists and technical personnel were incorporated into the plan, which also calls for the decentralization of performance venues and the establishment of *"banks"* of equipment which could be used on a collective basis.

Developing Africa's performing arts (Photo Unesco/Philip Gaunt).

looking ahead

Plastic sheets are "home" to street boys in Kisuma, Kenya (Photo UNICEF/Steve Jackson).

"STREET CHILDREN" IN AFRICA

Two seminars devoted to the urgent needs of "street children", in sub-Saharan Africa, will be held in Cotonou (Benin) from November 19 to 23, and in Nairobi (Kenya) from December 3 to 7. Organized by Unesco, UNICEF and specialized NGOs, the seminars will seek solutions to the plight of an increasing number of street and working children in poor urban communities. While these are estimated at 30 million worldwide, the phenomenon is relatively new in Africa, traditionally known for the warmth and solidity of the family.

ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY

An exhibition of architectural projects for the new Alexandria Library (Egypt) will be on view at Headquarters from November 5 to 16. Plans, drawings, slides and videos will present the 524 projects from 70 countries which participated in an international competition launched by Unesco in September 1988.The winning design, selected by an international jury on September 25, 1989, will be featured in the show.

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ART FILMS

The 14th International Festival of Art Films will take place at Headquarters from November 19 to 27. Forty-five films from 20 countries will be shown at the Festival which is sponsored by Unesco and the French Ministries of Culture, Education and Foreign Affairs.

INFORMATICS

The Third session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Intergovernmental Informatics Programme (IIP) will be held at Headquarters from November 26 to 30. The Committee will make suggestions to the Director-General and recommendations to the General Conference, notably for the updating of Unesco's informatics programme and priorities adopted for the IIP.

NGO CONSULTATION ON LITERACY

The 7th collective consultation of non-governmental organizations concerned with literacy and adult education will be held in Hamburg (FRG) from December 3 to 6. At the meeting, the NGOs will take stock of progress made during International Literacy Year 1990 and as a result of the World Conference on Education for All in Jomtien (Thailand) last March, and select projects to be submitted to Unesco for further action. A number of round-tables are also scheduled to discuss illiteracy in the industrialized countries.

CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT

Some 40 experts will attend a Unesco colloquium on the cultural dimension of development in Caracas (Venezuela) from December 3 to 7. The participants, from all regions in the world, will focus their discussions on the interaction between culture and development, between different lifestyles and production methods, consumption, forms of social organization and development strategies.

HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION PRIZE

The Unesco Prize for the Teaching of Human Rights, awarded every two years for outstanding work in this field, will be presented at Headquarters on December 10, celebrated annually throughout the UN system as Human Rights Day.

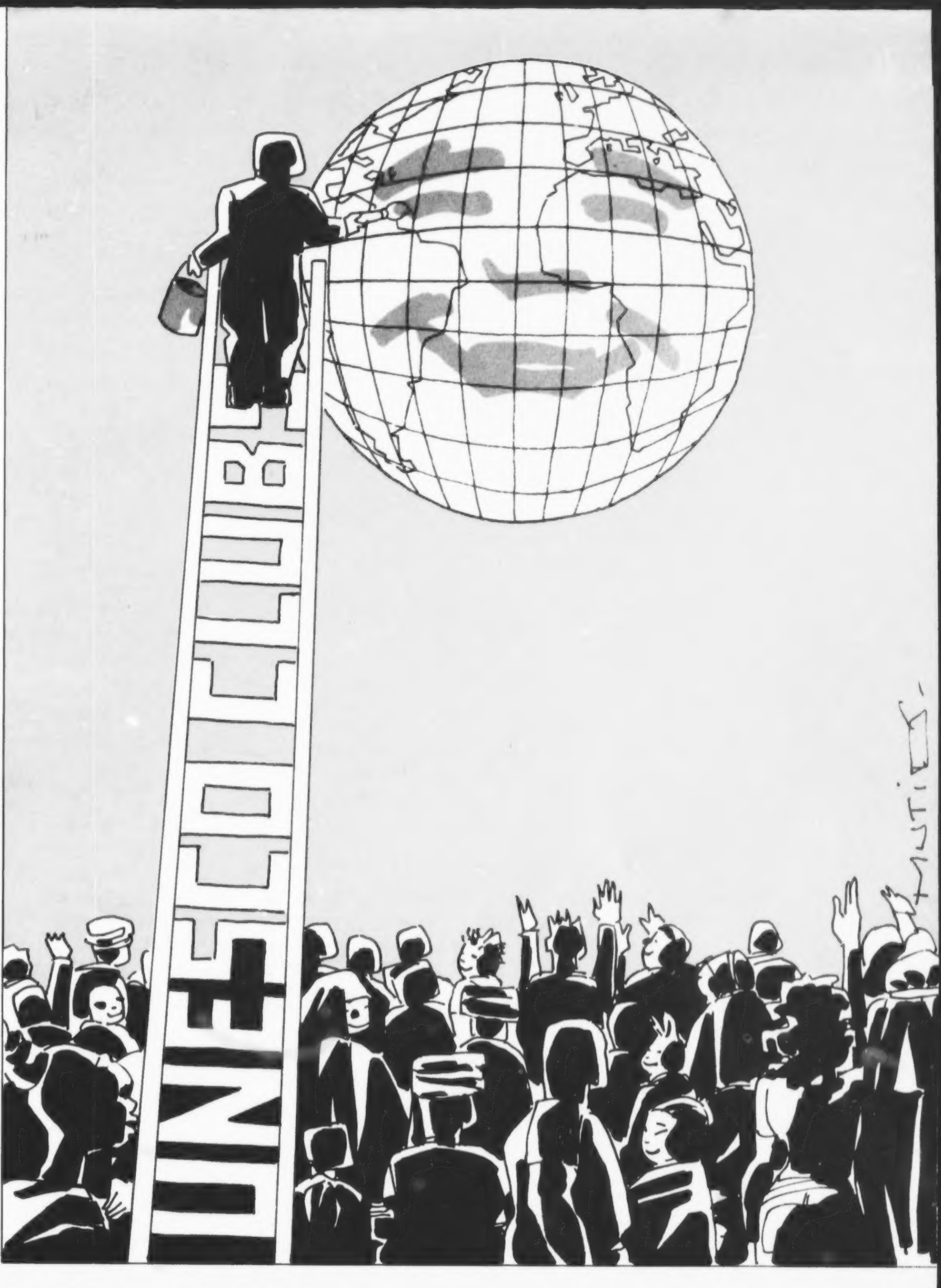
WORLD HERITAGE

The World Heritage Committee will hold its 21st session from December 7 to 12 in Banff, Alberta Province (Canada).The 21-member Committee will examine the inscription of new natural and cultural properties on the list of sites protected under the World Heritage Convention.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

In its next issue (November), Unesco SOURCES will FOCUS on the 3700 Unesco Clubs and Associations in 100 countries which are working to promote the ideals and action of the Organization at the grassroots level. Feature articles will report notably on their activities in the fields of literacy, human rights, culture and the environment.

unesco sources



UNESCO CLUBS : THINKING GLOBALLY, ACTING LOCALLY

DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA : WHICH FORM WILL IT TAKE ?

ALL ABOARD .... SAILING THE SILK ROADS

No. 20 - NOVEMBER 1990

IDEAS AND OPINIONS

A certain indecency

M. Robert André
International Association of Literary Critics,
Paris, France

Allow me to say that there is a certain indecency, when it comes to a country as miserably poor as Haiti, in spending five million dollars on a fortress : a symbol doesn't need to be restored. (See "A symbol saved : restoration of Haiti's Citadel of Laferriere", in SOURCES September 1990, no. 18).

Immediately after the capitulation in 1945, in a city where hardly a building was left standing, Wilhelm Furtwängler outdid himself to assemble the few remaining members of the Berlin Philharmonic and gave a concert among the ruins. The sense of this gesture was clear : the reconstruction of Germany was not only a matter for builders. It was a job to be done by everyone concerned with a common culture.

Today, even the major international financing agencies know that development of the Third World is inseparable from its cultural identity. In other words, the "soul" of a people must come into play along with economic forces. This is why Unesco, which is not a financing, nor an agricultural or industrial agency, considers that it can, in fact, further development in countries of the South by helping them save their cultural heritage.

Moreover, in the case of the restoration of Haiti's Citadel, it must be pointed out that this project was for many years the region's first employer - with an average 120 workmen and 17 skilled workers on the site - that it made possible the training of technicians and craftsmen who are now forming themselves into cooperatives or community associations, and that, as a tourist attraction, the Citadel will play a major role in the economy of this part of the country.

This said, other readers may share the indignation of M. Robert André and remain unmoved by the arguments presented above. The role of culture in development is such a basic question that Unesco SOURCES would be particularly happy to open its columns to all those wishing to take part in the debate. - ED.

In spite of my 75 years

Prof. Francesco Santiccioli
Health Education
and Preventive Medicine
Montebelluna, Italy

I would be particularly happy to receive your magazine on a regular basis. In spite of my 75 years, I continue to teach health education at the Scuole Superiori of the City of Treviso. The information we find in SOURCES is very important for my students and for myself. The work you are doing to educate your readers in matters of science and culture is vital.

A real life

Mme M. Colard-Rouland
Paris, France

I have just sent a check, along with my wholehearted support, to Unesco's Co-Action Programme, as a contribution towards help for "street children" and those forced to beg in railway stations (SOURCES N° 17). Once again Unesco SOURCES has managed, with two lines of text and two photos, to reveal tremendous tragedy. To think that we are still at this stage just a decade away from the year 2000 while, at the same time, such great technological progress has been made! True progress would mean that each human being could live a real life, in a real home, get an education and a culture.

Readers, this page is yours. Please don't hesitate to share your opinions, your criticism, your comments on Unesco's activities. To your pens !

INSIGHT

A movement is born ... Unesco and I

I was in Shanghai when World War II ended on August 15, 1945. Since Japanese residents were restricted, I moved to a tiny garret where I spent many idle hours pondering on the "inhumanity of war." During one of these long meditations, I gained the conviction that the only way Japan could live in the future world would be by creating a new peaceful and cultural State that would never wage war again. New hope burned in my mind. The "Old I" vanished and the "New I" was born.

Repatriated in 1946, I was sent to Sendai City as a Liaison Officer for international understanding and cultural exchange between U.S. Occupation Forces and local Japanese residents. This was the beginning, on a small scale, of my work for international peace.

It was on the morning of November 25, 1946, that I picked up a newspaper and came across an article about the First General Conference of Unesco held in Paris. When I read the expression of high ideals and spirit of peace in the Preamble of the Unesco Constitution, it was like an electric shock. I remember shouting : "This is it, this is what I am looking for !"

The idea gradually formed in my mind of founding a non-governmental organization. The Sendai Unesco Cooperative Association was established on July 19, 1947. This was the first of its kind in the world.

With the establishment of our association, Unesco activities were extended to occupied Japan and we began to receive books and documents. I also translated Director-General Julian Huxley's book, "Unesco : its Purpose and its Philosophy" into Japanese.

My next plan was to set up more Unesco associations in various parts of the country and then to establish a national federation, which I did the following year.

If occupied Japan was able to join Unesco in 1951, and, for the first time since the War, open her doors to the outside world, the credit should go entirely to the non-governmental Unesco movement.

Since I also cherished the hope that similar movements for Unesco would spring up in other countries and that contacts would be established between them, it was gratifying, after many years of effort, to see the establishment of the Asian Federation of Unesco Clubs and Associations in 1974 and, in 1981, the World Federation of Unesco Clubs and Associations.

Much has been achieved since my days of meditation in my garret in Shanghai in 1945. So much more remains to be done. I am happy to have played a part in the growth and development of the movement and remain as determined as ever to continue working for the ideals it represents.

Koichi Ueda

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PEOPLE

YOUNG HUNGARIAN COMPOSER TWICE HONOURED

"Awakenings," a composition by Istvan Csont, 19, of Hungary, was selected from among 50 works presented at the International Rostrum of Electroacoustic Music, held in Oslo (Norway) from September 20 to 21. The composition also took first place in the under 35-year category, ex-aequo with "Mémoires Vives" (vivid memories) by Robert Normandeau of Canada.

Created by the International Music Council (IMC), in collaboration with the International Confederation of Electroacoustic Music, with support from Unesco, the Rostrum aims at making electroacoustic music better known through radio broadcasts which each participating network agrees to programme between now and the next Rostrum in 1992.

UNESCO HONOURS SOVIET DANCERS

Bolshoi Theatre ballet stars and members of the International Dance Council's (CID) Executive Committee, Ekaterina Maximova and Vladimir Vassiliev, have been awarded Unesco's Picasso Medal. Designed by the Spanish surrealist, Miro, the medal is awarded to personalities who have contributed, through their works, to the dialogue between artists and cultures.

Maximova and Vassiliev received their award at an international colloquium on "Research and works in the different domains of dance : art, society, thought, philosophy" which was organized by the CID in Belgrade from September 17 to 19 and attended by some 50 choreographers, composers, writers, historians and philosophers.

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Brahim Katrou : doing what comes naturally

Like any self-respecting Mediterranean, he speaks with his hands, switching from Arabic to French and back again, but always with a gesture to punctuate and emphasize.

In fact, when Brahim Katrou, President of the Tunisian Federation of Unesco Clubs, combines words and sweeping movements to expound on his favorite subjects, international understanding and universality, or about reinforcing the Clubs' *"global vision"*, he seems to be building lofty towers in the air.

"In the current international context," he says, *"where the tendency is towards regional economic and political groupings, Unesco Clubs should make it possible for youth everywhere to overcome ideological, religious or racial divisions, and work together for peace."*

This world view is a kind of outward projection from Brahim Katrou's natural gift for human relations at the person-to-person level. A sunny smile, a warm and open personality and what appears to be perpetual good humour - all the necessary attributes - come easy, perhaps because the lucky man was born on the beautiful Island of Jerba off the southeast Tunisian coast.

"Groups have always fascinated me," he said, *"the way people interact,"* and he readily admits that he has frequently been chosen to lead them. At the university in Tunis where he majored in Arabic Literature, Brahim was active in the Tunisian Students Union, travelling widely, and meeting students in other Arab countries or in Europe.

"Drawn to teaching from an early age," he took a job in 1971 as a professor of Arabic literature at the Lycée Bab El Jedid for girls in Tunis. Today, at 49, his thick black hair slightly touched by silver, he continues there to divide his time and tastes between past and present, between his love for Medieval classics like the 11th century (4th century AH) poet al-Ma'arri or the philosopher Abu Hayyan at-Tawhidi, and a deep commitment to 20th century youth.

When, in 1976, he created a Unesco Club at Bab El Jedid, it was the first in a Tunisian lycée. *"A few years earlier,"* he explains, *"I was selected by the Ministry of Education to participate in a postgraduate, on-the-job training programme in human relations (psycho-sociology, group dynamics, etc) . And since then, my contacts with Unesco had deepened, the Club seemed a natural step."*

The Bab El Jedid Club was so successful that others rapidly formed until, today, there are18. When the Tunisian Federation was founded in 1983, Brahim served as Secretary-General, then in 1987 was elected President.

Brahim Katrou with Bab El Jedid Unesco Club leaders (Photo Unesco).

On top of all his "regular" activities including innumerable meetings at home and abroad, Brahim Katrou acts as a consultant in personnel relations for several Tunisian corporations, manages to spend time with his wife and three children - and walks four or five km each morning. Does he ever stop moving ?

"Yes ! In August. August is sacred. That's when we go back to Jerba."

Ely Mustapha
Tunis

Genevieve Fiore, a spirit personified

She was United Nations Day Chairwoman in Colorado for the 13th year on Oct. 24th. She founded the Denver Unesco Center in 1947 and has been active in it ever since. She has made over 3,800 speeches on behalf of Unesco and the UN over the past four decades.

It is difficult to imagine anyone who so personifies the spirit of the UN and Unesco. At 78, Genevieve d'Amato Fiore hasn't slowed down a bit.

"Oh, yes, I take time off occasionally to be with my grand-daughter and three children but I keep pretty busy otherwise," Mrs. Fiore says.

"Pretty busy" is a pace which would leave a person decades younger completely exhausted. *"She is amazing,"* says Sherilynn Derstine, a board member of the Denver Association and young enough to be Genevieve's daughter. *"I think she has actually gained in determination and enthusiasm in the 12 years I've known her."*

A "normal" week for Mrs. Fiore - faithfully chauffeured by her husband, John, 81 - includes meetings of several of the 10 boards of which she is a member ; speeches to students, service clubs, women's associations ; and meetings with city officials, fellow activists or anyone wanting to tap her store of information about the U.N. in general, and Unesco in particular.

It was the experience of having three brothers in service during World War II that motivated young Genevieve's interest in the U.N. and its agencies.

"While we prayed for their safe return, I asked myself : 'How could we have avoided this war ?'" Her answer was to *"work for peace, through that new organization, the United Nations."*

When the U.S. National Commission for Unesco held a regional conference in Denver in May, 1947, Mrs. Fiore attended, and was hooked on Unesco from that day on.

A week later, Genevieve met with a small group to plant the seed for the first Unesco Club in the U.S. - the third in all the world. On Dec. 3, 1947, the Steele Center Unesco Club met for the first time.

Genevieve Fiore with the author (Photo Unesco).

Over the years it has raised untold thousands of dollars for Unesco's Co-Action Programme ; hosted hundreds of foreign students attending Denver's universities ; sponsored all kinds of programmes in local schools, churches and clubs ; and kept Unesco's name in front of the public through TV, radio, newspaper, and magazine exposure.

For her tireless work on behalf of Unesco, Mrs. Fiore has been given medals by various Directors-General, plaques, citations and awards. She has also been honoured with a Freedom Foundation Medal, a U.S. Aid for International Development Award, a National Amita Award given to Italian-Americans, and countless others.

Her interest in international causes has taken her to her first U.N. seminar in New York in 1954, an Experiment in International Living Conference in Italy in 1962, Habitat in Vancouver in 1976, Copenhagen's Women's Decade meeting in 1980, the World Conference to appraise the Decade for Women in Nairobi in 1985, and many others.

Now, poised on the threshold of her eighth decade, Genevieve Fiore doesn't know the meaning of the words "slow down" or "retirement".

"As long as the Lord gives me the strength and good health, I'll be doing what I've always done," she says.

Joseph A. Mehan
Former Chief Information Officer,
Unesco Liaison Office, N.Y.

"THE BLOOD OF INNOCENTS..."

Unesco's Executive Board, meeting in Paris at its 135th session (see p. 22) adopted the following declaration on October 11 relating to the tragic events of three days earlier in Jerusalem:

"The Executive Board,

Having learnt with consternation of the tragedy that occurred on 8 October 1990 around the Al Aqsa Mosque in the holy city of Jerusalem,

Recalling Unesco's objectives and its unceasing efforts in the service of peace, tolerance and dialogue between peoples,

Strongly deploring the fact that in the city that symbolizes the convergence of the three monotheistic religions the blood of innocents continues to sully the fervour of prayer,

Extends its sorrowful condolences to the families of the victims and its deep sympathy to the Palestinian people, and vigorously condemns the excessive use of force by the occupying Israeli forces during the incident that occurred in front of the Al Aqsa mosque;

Urgently appeals to Israel to refrain from any repressive action that results in losses of human life, particularly the lives of innocent victims, who are often children and women;

Expresses the hope that the bloodshed will cease forthwith and stresses the urgent need to achieve a global solution to the Palestinian problem on the basis of the decisions of the international community."

UNITED GERMANY AND UNESCO

Unesco now counts one less Member State. The reunification of Germany has meant the closure of the Permanent Delegation and the National Commission of the German Democratic Republic to Unesco. From now on the Organization will only recognize the "Federal Republic of Germany" or simply "Germany". The reunification also means that the seats formerly held by the GDR on various intergovernmental commitees, which are divided up according to geographical groupings, will be reallocated to the geographical group to which the GDR belonged, i.e., that of the socialist countries.

Finally the reunified State, for the end of the current biennium, will pay the contribution due from the two former German states (11.63% and 1.86% of total contributions). It will be up to the UN to revise and set the new contribution rate.

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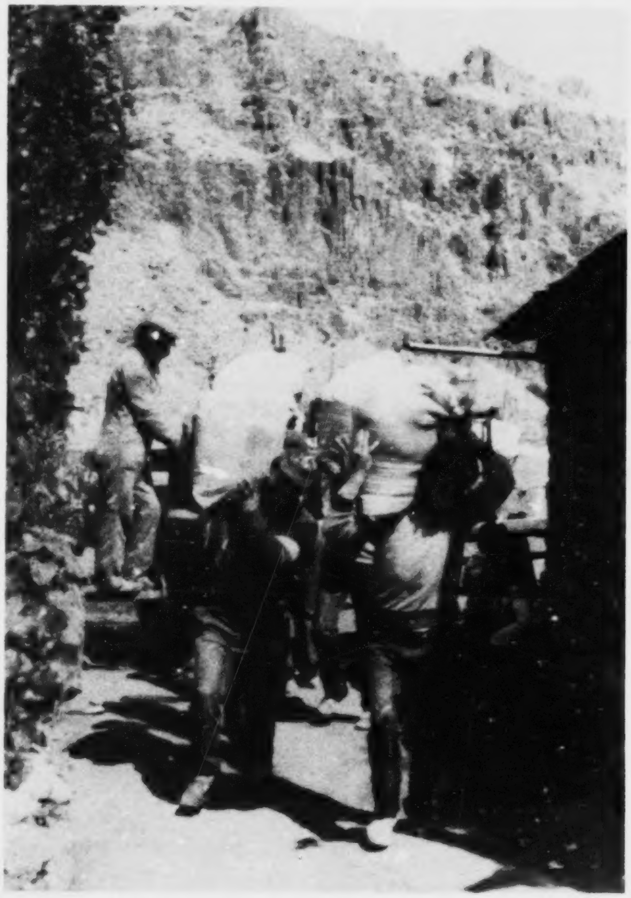

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Unesco Clubs : Thinking globally, acting locally

When Indian children study nature protection, retired teachers from the Paris region leave in search of the cultural treasures of Yugoslavia, Maltese adults stage sports competitions for young people, several dozen Mediterraneans meet in Tunisia to talk about the olive tree as "a tree of civilization and a symbol of peace", what have they in common ?At first glance, nothing at all. And yet each of these groups, however disparate they may be in age, interests, social and cultural background and geographical origin, is attached to one of the 3,700 Unesco Clubs and Associations to be found in about a hundred different countries. Their common denominator ? Support for the Unesco ideal, which they translate into a myriad of different activities in the Organization's fields of competence, ranging from reafforestation in the Sahel (see pp. 15-16) to the setting up of literacy centres in the Third World with the financial support of the Unesco Associations of Japan (p. 11), to the organization of a scientific exhibition by children in Costa Rica (p. 14) and the establishment by Clubs in the south of France of hostels for immigrant workers (p. 13).

The Japanese intellectuals who set up the world's very first "Unesco Association" forty-three years ago were motivated by a desire to renew the international contacts that had been severed by the "great and terrible war" and to act on the famous phrase from the preamble to Unesco's Constitution : *"Peace must ... be founded, if it is not to fail, upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind."* But in 1990 the question *"Why did you start a Unesco Club ?"* elicits an immense variety of answers.

Boris, a young Soviet researcher, doesn't beat about the bush : *"Because Unesco's principles, especially as regards human rights, are of crucial importance to my friends and me and because we know that the Club movement will allow us to get in touch with communities throughout the world."* So today's convictions echo yesterday's hopes - especially in Eastern Europe, which in its march towards freedom views the Clubs as *"a school of democracy"*, in the words of André Zweyacker, President of the French Federation of Unesco Clubs.

This fresh turning-point in a movement that has been expanding for four decades and acquiring new content and dimensions in line with world developments follows the mass influx of Third World Clubs in the 1960s (they are now by far the largest contingent), a phenomenon associated with the wave of independence.

Education via such means as puppet shows, using characters drawn from local folklore and traditions, is the special goal the Unesco Club of Cuba has set itself (Photo Unesco Club/Frank Escariz).

Unesco Clubs : diversity and growth

In the 43 years since the creation of the first Unesco Club, the movement has grown steadily so that in 1990 it boasts 3,700 clubs spread throughout 100 countries. Overall, the majority of members are school pupils or students, except in Asia where the adults working in universities and other educational establishments, culture, politics and industry, have the numbers. Adult membership in Europe also comprises mainly people from the educational field, while in Africa, there are numerous civil servants, farmers and office workers. In Europe and Latin America there are apparently more girls than boys in the clubs, while the reverse is true of Africa and Asia.

Although they have many features in common, Unesco Clubs may take many different forms, although they generally fall into four main categories :clubs in schools, clubs founded for and by students, clubs open to a wider membership (Unesco Associations), and Unesco Centres. When there are a number of clubs in one country, the Unesco National Commissions encourage the creation of national bodies to co-ordinate their activities, furnish them with documentation and encourage contacts abroad.

"Our aim is the promotion of our values and historic roots and the forging of our cultural identity," says Ricardo Dávalos Nuñez, Co-ordinator of a Peruvian Club that specializes in setting up community cultural centres - the trend in Third World associations being towards development programmes and the promotion of national and local cultures. Thousands of kilometres away in Colombo, another voice from a Club that is certainly unique of its kind tells us : *"We are the children of 'Mother Lanka' serving terms of imprisonment. We have established a Unesco Club at our prison. Thanks to this Club a large number of inmates were taught to read and write essays and compositions ... The Club gives us much hope for improving our living conditions. It gives us a new hope for living." "The top priority for our associations is the fight against all forms of ignorance,"* affirms a Cameroonian organizer, voicing the feelings of Club leaders elsewhere in Africa and also in Asia and Latin America.

"Active solidarity"

For many Clubs in the industrialized countries the watchword has become "active solidarity" with their counterparts in less privileged countries to help them in their development efforts. At the same time they pursue specific activities of their own : running a "One World Centre" to promote development studies and the training of development teachers (Belfast Club) ; promotion of books and the habit of reading (Florence Centre) ; safeguarding old parts of the city (Leningrad Associations) ; establishment of an international institute for the study of trace elements (Lyons Club) ; archaeological expeditions (Sofia NNEK Club) ; preparing Spanish and Portuguese versions of Unesco publications and periodicals (including "Sources" !) and independent publications in those languages (Barcelona and Oporto Centres). The examples are legion.

But the diversification of interests and the geographical spread of Clubs has been accompanied over the years by a trend towards consolidation. About 50 countries now have national co-ordinating bodies. The World Federation of Unesco Clubs, Centres and Associations was founded in 1981 and have been presided over since 1984 by Mr Gonzalo Abad Grijalva, former Ambassador of Ecuador to Unesco. *"The World Federation is a non-governmental organization working to further international understanding,"* says Mr Pierre Lesueur, Secretary-General since its foundation, using his gift for nutshell definitions.

But we should not conclude that it is all plain sailing for Unesco Clubs. Wherever they may be, they have to contend with all kinds of difficulties, some of which are inherent to voluntary associations. With few exceptions, their material and financial resources fall short of their ambitions, a state of affairs that, among other things, detracts from their ability to foster exchanges and creates in many of them a sense of isolation. Their action is also sometimes hampered by a lack of trained organizers and by documentation that is not in the language of their country and is beyond their means to translate. Worse still, the movement fails to get off the ground in some parts of the world because permission cannot be obtained from the public authorities, who are either ill-informed or fear that the Clubs may take up the cudgels on behalf of human rights and social justice.

Although the obstacles to the spread of Unesco Clubs are therefore quite considerable they should not be unduly magnified : the overall balance is favourable. In spite of sharp fluctuations due to the very nature of a "movement" - which by definition implies mobility - the number of Clubs and the number of countries with Clubs are still growing, and the members seem unwaveringly optimistic : *"Beyond our difficulties and fears,"* writes Father Ndala N'Goy, founder of the Bonsomi Club in Kinshasa, *"there is an undeniable glimmer of hope, the hope of sowing the seeds of a better world in the minds of the young."*

The World Federation is no less dynamic. It seeks to remedy shortcomings, particularly as regards the training of Club leaders - *"certainly our most useful and promising activity,"* says Patrick Gallaud, the originator and driving force behind these programmes. Seminars on "Understanding Unesco and Practising international life", organized in connection with Unesco's international conferences, enable Club leaders from all over the world to garner valuable information and compare their experience.

Unesco is also liberal with co-operation and encouragement, since it views its Clubs as the *"Unesco of peoples"* and appreciates their contribution to the enhancement of Unesco's public image. So much so that the Director-General, conversing with a group of organizers gathered at Headquarters in November 1989, was moved to exclaim *"You are paths of light !"*

Anne Willings-Grinda
Division of National Commissions
and Unesco Clubs

JAPAN : TOP PRIORITY ON EDUCATION FOR ALL

The 38th floor of the Shinjuku ultramodern skyscraper in the heart of Tokyo's business centre is the seat of the National Federation of Unesco Associations of Japan (NFUAJ). Literacy is the top priority of this organisation which is run by only 15 permanent staff but boasts some 20,000 members throughout Japan.

NFUAJ's activities took off in 1987 with the sale in Japan of stage accessories belonging to the American singer Michael Jackson, and gold coins stamped with his portrait. The $ 78,500 raised by the sale were used the next year to initially finance 20 literacy centres in 18 countries. Ultimately, 34 such centres were set up : eight in Africa, 20 in Asia, two in the Arab world, three in Latin America, as well as an international centre for the blind. They cater primarily to adults, but also take in children where there is a lack of local schools.

Each of these projects was undertaken after consultations with Unesco - either following an evaluation based on Unesco statistics, or in response to requests addressed directly to the Federation by developing countries, particularly the poorest. NFUAJ finances the construction of these centres and keeps a close eye on their development, the financial aspect in particular. Donors, generally individuals and companies, have the right to be informed at any time how their grants are being used.

As a rule, NFUAJ's involvement ceases once the centre has been inaugurated. Thereafter, management is in the hands of the project's initiators, governmental or non-governmental organisations. They are also free to shape the centre's activities in accordance with local needs and conditions. However, policy guidelines are set by the Federation : political neutrality, non-discrimination, the teaching of reading, writing and counting skills, basic methods of improving day to day life, and consciousness raising, to help the individual understand his/her role in society and the environment. The Federation also provides advice and evaluation. This year, it commissioned a team of 17 experts from the various countries in which it is involved to elaborate a "Manual for literacy centres", which proposes solutions to problems ranging from management to teacher training.

But this is an expensive proposition and, as Mrs. Tamaki Obana underlines, NFUAJ is financially autonomous. The Federation's annual budget of more than two million dollars depends essentially on members' contributions. Only three percent of this sum comes from public funds while the remainder comes from cultural shows and grants. This naturally implies long-term plans and a constant mobilisation of local associations.

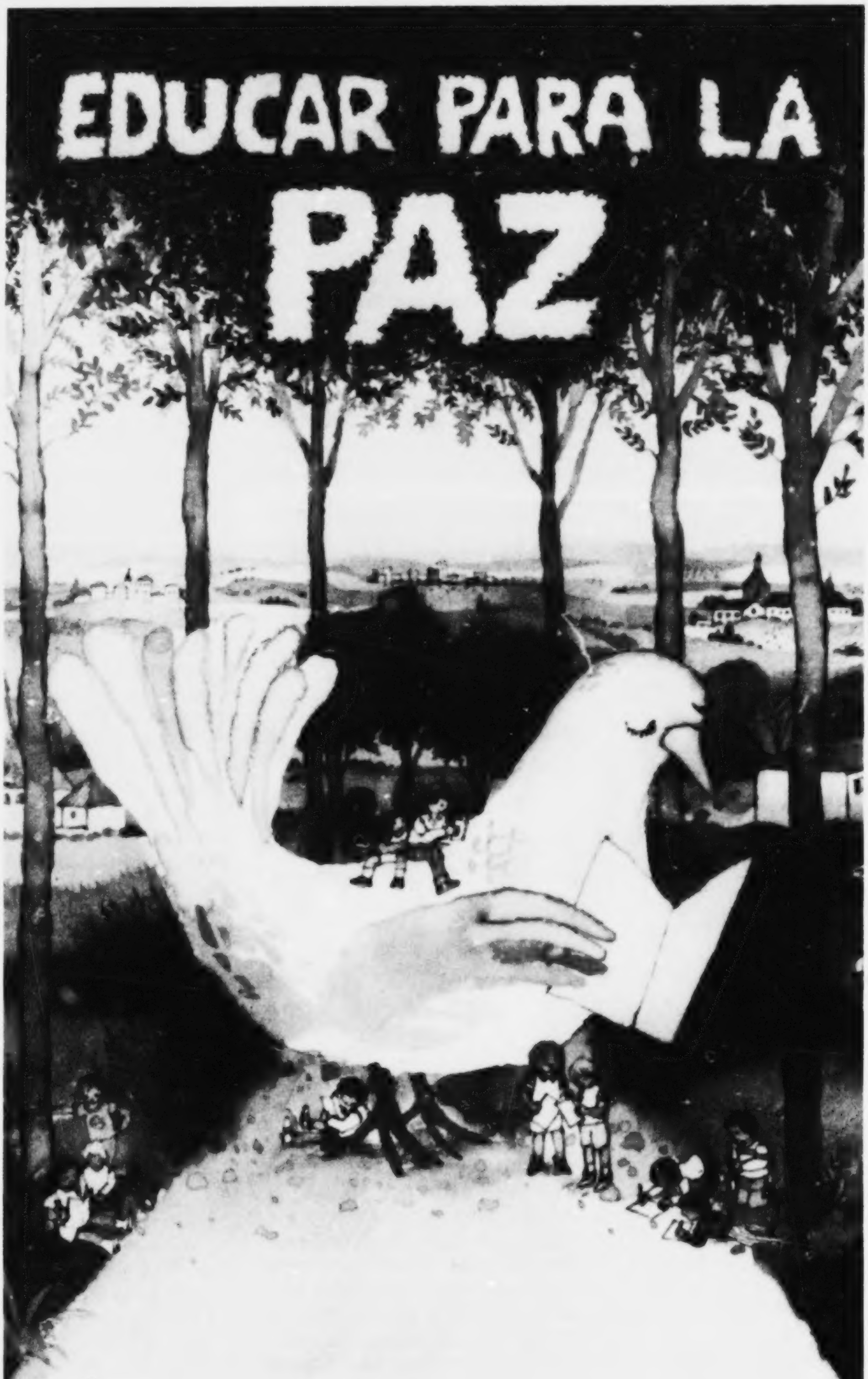
Mobilizing public opinion

A good example is the "Education for all" campaign launched in May 1989. This added almost two million dollars extra to the budget, even though the term "literacy", as International department head Sumiko Ichigami points out, *"hardly means anything to the average Japanese. Since the Meiji reform, the government has laid great stress on education. And the monks take care of those who miss out on compulsory schooling"*.

The media also plays a decisive role in mobilizing Japanese public opinion. *Yomiuri*, a daily that sells some 10 million copies per day, publishes articles by Federation experts and has a regular literacy column. Its famous cartoon strip, "Little Kobo", has also taken up the "education for all" message. *Yomiuri* has commissioned some 15 of its top journalists to report on the centres, and money from shows the newspaper organises, like last August's rock concert attended by over 40,000 people, goes to the NFUAJ. The daily also constructed a "reading house" in Nepal last year, financed by ten thousand dollars donated by its readers.

Nonetheless, despite its efforts, and given the immensity of its task, NFUAJ faces two major problems : a lack of teachers and, more acutely, money. *"This is the crux of the problem,"* officials say. Not surprising, because apart from its educational activities, the Federation has also taken on the normal but difficult task undertaken by all Clubs of making known the ideals and activities of Unesco.

An Ping
Tokyo



Education for peace is the message in this design, which appears on the cover of a booklet of the same name, published on the initiative of the Madrid Club of the Friends of Unesco, to celebrate the International Year of Peace (1986).

THE RIGHT SORT OF WELCOME...
Support for immigrant workers in France

The Unesco Clubs Regional Council in the Midi-Pyrenees region runs five hostels for immigrant workers. It is the only Club in France and probably in the world to take on such demanding social work in addition to its more conventional cultural activities.

Its 360 flatlets are never empty and there are always long waiting-lists despite the fact that the Council opened a new hostel last May. This provides accommodation for 59 people and is situated, like the others, in the centre of Toulouse, the capital of this south-western region of France.

The hostels are run by Gérard Dupuy, the director of the Council's housing service, and with 20 employees and an annual budget of 7 million francs, he is in charge of a real business, a business that, after some initial highs and lows, has been going well since 1972.

One might well ask, however, if it really is the job of Unesco Clubs to house people. The regional Director, Jeanine Gibrat, who was one of the pioneers of this social action, is unrepentant : *"We're matching an ideal - Unesco's ideal - to a social need encountered at grassroots' level through a practical scheme that is also extremely rewarding in cultural and human terms. Other Clubs don't always understand us and often say :' but of course, you people in Toulouse have the resources!' We got these resources by taking risks. The first building was bought in 1972 with a loan for which three voluntary workers personally provided security. Nobody regrets that today."*

In 1972, the golden age of Unesco Clubs, the Toulouse Club leaders felt that opening a hostel for foreign workers would be an effective way of stimulating the sort of exchanges that give the Clubs movement its originality and make it so rewarding. *"And then, once it got into its stride, we discovered very rapidly that there was an enormous need in Toulouse for housing for these people. We also felt that opening centres was the best way of showing our young people how to give foreigners the right sort of welcome. That's how we embarked on a course of action that may at first sight seem surprising."*

The Midi-Pyrenees Council only caters for single workers whose papers are in order. New arrivals are directed to Gérard Dupuy's housing service by bush telegraph and by the social services. The five hostels are small ones. The first, in the Saint-Cyprien district, provides accommodation for 126 people. The others, dotted about the city centre, have no more than 60 flatlets each.

No ghettos

The main objective of the programme is the insertion of these migrant workers into French society, explains Ms Gibrat. *"We see to it that we don't create a ghetto,"* she says. *"In our hostels, people can have visitors as and when they like.However, we do ask them to look after themselves. There's no question of seeing to administrative formalities for them, though we do give them help. Everyone does his own cooking and shopping and manages his own finances."* The aim here is to help the residents develop their independence, thus allowing them to better adapt to their new community.

However, these immigrant workers, who are often illiterate and employed as manual labourers, face enormous communication problems. *"Women, children and cultures have been left behind,"* explains Dupuy. *"Thus they fall back on communities made up of their compatriots. We try, with Club members, to make the most of this to help them adapt, and ensure, as well, a better welcome. This falls right into line with the vocation of the Clubs."*

Traditional festivals and celebrations are seen as an occasion for new encounters but integration is a two-way deal; both parties - the immigrants and the local population must be willing to find a meeting point. However, it has to be acknowledged that much remains to be done in this area.

There also exists another major obstacle. *"Their primary goal,"* Gérard Dupuy says, *"is often to go back home. They are really in exile. They are people who made a wager with their family that they could go away and come back wealthy men. In the early 1970s, these people earned a good living but the crisis has dashed their hopes. Now, because they can no longer even send money back to their wives, they have a sense of failure. For them, the future is uncertain and they are convinced that they no longer even have a place waiting for them back home."*

The Toulouse hostels also act as a meeting point (Photo Unesco Clubs in Midi-Pyrenees).

"Another problem is also looming on the horizon, that nobody talks about," says Gérard Dupuy. *"That is the elderly members of the immigrant communities. Old people's homes are not adapted for them in France, though there are elderly gentlemen about who are well past the age of retirement. Nobody is concerned by this problem. Foreigners do not vote, so whatever we may say about them ..."*

Clearly, respect of the rights of minority groups is a combat that knows no frontiers...

Alain Buisson

CHILD SCIENTISTS FOR PEACE

A joint Unesco Club - Associated School project in Costa Rica

Seed-germinating sponges, devices for gauging weather conditions, erupting volcanoes, machines operated by electrochemical energy - projects that could be the work of scientists but are actually the inventions of the young members of the Unesco Club at Tres Ríos Central School in Costa Rica.

Located 12 km from the capital, San José, the school - founded in 1848 - is one of 40 in Costa Rica belonging to Unesco's Associated Schools project in which education puts the accent on international cooperation and peace. It also has a Unesco Club whose scientific bent has mobilized both students and teachers to organize a Child Scientists Exhibition, now an annual event.

At the third Child Scientists Exhibition last September, 400 children, 9 to 12, out of a total enrolment of 1,863, exhibited their inventions.

"The children had been telling us from the beginning of the year that their projects were ready and they wanted to put them on display" said María Antonieta Castro Murillo, teacher and co-ordinator of the Club, at the opening of the exhibition. A science graduate, she has been cultivating the children's interest in this area for the past five years. Their enthusiasm is an indication of her success.

Child scientists display their inventions (Photo Unesco).

The children's fervour comes as no surprise to the school Principal, María Inés Cambronero, who feels certain her pupils are highly capable, dynamic and critical, with inquiring minds that thrive on proper attention.

"The results tell their own story," she says. Far fewer projects were displayed at the two previous exhibitions but this time the administration of the Unesco Associated School and the Club joined forces to encourage the children and teachers. While the teachers aroused their pupils' enthusiasm during classtime, Unesco Science Club members did promotional work, visiting the classrooms and posting information on notice boards around the school.

"Science with a smile ..."

Fired with enthusiasm, the schoolchildren set to work and lived up to the motto *"Science with a Smile"*, coined by teacher Carmen Zeledón for the exhibition's opening ceremony.

The smile was also shared by parents who helped out with preparations. Fourth-grade pupil Geoffrey Chacón, who uses aluminium and copper sulfate in salt water to turn a wheel, tells us : *"Using a book as my guide, I set to work with the help of my Dad."* The National Co-ordinator of Unesco Clubs and Associated Schools, Flor de María Trigueros, considers it very important for parents to get involved with their children in this kind of scientific activity. Consequently they were encouraged to join in.

Teachers also met with the parents to give them information about the initiative and try to make them more aware of children's innate intelligence and the need to help them both at home and in school to make the most of their aptitudes. *"We have already shown,"* says Ms. Cambronero, *"that the children of this school are very anxious to be taken seriously."* Their critical capacity has lept ahead to the point where *"it's going to be difficult for us teachers to continue with this project, because the children have shown us our limits."*

She is therefore relieved that the staff is young, open to change and eager to do well.

According to Flor de María Trigueros, the promotion of Unesco's ideals has also contributed to the children's maturity : *"They have a more broad-minded outlook and are more aware of the value of peace and of the need for constant dialogue to preserve it."*

It was within this framework of education for peace, shared by 40 other Unesco Associated Schools in Costa Rica, that the school Club conceived the idea of organizing annual Child Scientist Exhibitions, whose abiding concept is science for construction, not destruction.

Science for peace

The behaviour of ants, cotton-growing, extraction of vinegar from plantain, conservation of natural resources, the form in which electricity is conducted to our homes - these are some of the themes on which the primary schoolchildren supply information to visitors attending the exhibitions. They all highlight invention to foster human progress and welfare.

"People who are able to create, to admire nature and to oppose the destruction of the beauties of the environment are also people who are devoted to peace," affirms Ms. Cambronero.

In keeping with this idea and the Club's programme, the school also runs other activities such as Peace Week, Natural Resources Week, Earth Day, etc. aimed at cultivating a strong awareness of science and ecology in the children's minds.

And there can be no doubt the intelligence of these young scientists at Tres Ríos will be placed at the service of peace, as they all share the ambition of Federico Monge Amador, a third-grade pupil in a neighbouring school : *"If I were a scientist, I'd invent a machine to put an end to war."*

Silvia Monturiol
San José

TOGETHER AGAINST THE DESERT ...

An international reafforestation camp in the Sahel

The secondary school in the small town of Yako in Burkina Faso has been decked out for the occasion with the colours of the various participating countries. The front of the building has been decorated with streamers which proclaim : *"Keep the desert at bay by planting trees"* and *"Friendship for ever among the nations"* ... The excitement there is like that of an army about to go into a battle, but whose weapons are pickaxes, shovels, spades, chisels, spikes and ropes.

This year the Burkina Faso Federation of Unesco Clubs and Associations has chosen to organize its work camp some 50 miles away from Ouagadougou, the capital, in this small town a few thousand-strong in the heart of the Mossi plateau (so named after the country's main ethnic group). The gradual deterioration of the environment is compounded here by demographic pressure, which is more acute than anywhere else in the country. Ninety-four per cent of the energy consumed is wood-based. The situation is made worse by the ruthless clearing of vegetation and the unchecked roamings of herds that gobble down everything they can find.

An ecological war

So serious is the problem - one unfortunately that is common to all the countries of the Sahel, *"the edge of the desert"* in Arabic - that the Unesco Clubs in Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal and Niger, supported by their counterparts in neighbouring countries like Benin, Togo and Côte d'Ivoire, decided to react by embarking on an ecological war to defend their own future and demonstrate their solidarity. Thus it was that some 500 youngsters, about a hundred of whom were from France, Switzerland and Germany, together attended the reafforestation camp of Yako, from last 7 to 16 July. Other movements were also represented : "SOS Sahel", "Jeunesse et reconstruction", the French scouts, "La nouvelle planète", "Le centre écologique Albert Schweitzer" (Switzerland), the international scouting movement and "Un peu plus loin" (Belgium-Burkina Faso).

A few days later, from July 21 to August 4, some 200 other young people took part in a similar operation in Togo, which was organized by the Togolese Federation of Clubs.

Anything's good for a laugh. A task force is raring to go from sunup to sundown. Parlour games, people trying their hand at painting, theatre performances, sports competitions - everything contributes to the fairground atmosphere, to a mood of gaiety that verges at times on euphoria.

Tree planting at Yako : "this is a far more practical and more exciting way of contributing to development" (Photo Unesco/Diomansi Bomboté).

Everyone has to take potluck when it comes to finding a bed in one of the dormitories or joining one of the 11 teams, bearing such names as "Planters Associated", "Rainbow", "Mandela", "Black Rambo", "Soweto", "Che Guevarra" ... And in less than a day friendships are formed that, in some cases, will withstand the passage of time and triumph over distances.

Yet this holiday atmosphere does not cause these young people to lose sight of the main reason for their being here. On Thursday 12 July Yako was hit by a torrential rainstorm which flooded the hundreds of 18-inch-deep holes that had been dug during the preceding days. To preserve a little dampness, without which the seedlings would not survive, one specialist had advocated that green leaves be placed in the bottom of the holes, hoping that it would not rain before the young shoots were put into the earth. A lively discussion started up, dividing the camp into two. What was to be done ? An indescribable but good-natured shouting match ensued, after which it was decided to remove the water and the greenery.

A $4m budget

The seedlings are provided under a $4million project funded by Canada, known as the Passoré (administrative region of Yako) tree-planting programme. The project manager, Dirk Akkerhuis, impressed by the enthusiasm and seriousness of the Unesco Clubs, has agreed to help with the purchase of tools and other supplies.

The tree chosen was *azadirachta indica*, popularly known as "neem" (or "nim") or "Indian lilac". It needs just 150 mm of rain to grow and stands up to the heat very well. Unaffected by the type of soil in which it is planted, it is able to tolerate a small degree of salinity. It can be used just as well for firewood as for timber. Owing to the very bitter taste of its leaves, animals, and especially, locusts, keep away from it. In the space of a few years it has spread throughout the Sahel.

Nothing dampens the ardour of these young people - not the heat, not tiredness, not the risks of malaria, and even less blisters. In twos, threes and fours, from one hole to the next, they slog away without ever losing their good spirits. *"This is the first time that I've felt that I am doing something useful"*, says Catherine, a 26-year-old Belgian. *"I want to give of myself because there's much to be done around here,"* she explains, wondering *"How can one be unmoved by so much suffering, disease, famine, and now desertification ?"* Timothée Kambusi, a 20-year-old Burkinabe student, puts it another way : *"Since becoming a member of the Unesco Club I've changed a great deal. I feel like I've really matured through living in a community, which in addition offers many opportunities for cultural exchanges and broadening one's horizons."*

Demonstrating our awareness

Some Europeans admit that they had a hard time dealing with *"the strong sense of culture shock."* But once they had got over the first feelings of surprise, *"I was amazed at the maturity and degree of awareness of many Burkinabe young people. It didn't fit in with what I knew about Africa. We feel like we're becoming citizens of the world"* (Françoise, a 26-year-old French woman).

Proffering a few words of encouragement to the girls responsible for preparing the meals, a quip to the person in charge of the flags and instructions to those in charge of equipment, Daniel Da-Hien trails his lanky form through the camp. As President of the Burkinabe Federation of Unesco Clubs and Associations, he knows everybody and everybody knows him. And what is more, he seems to have a miracle solution to every problem, no matter how complex or unexpected.

Aged 28 - he looks more like 40 - he has been the driving force behind the expanding movement in Burkina Faso, where the number of Clubs and Associations has risen from five to 73 in 10 years. This year's camp is the fifth to have been organized by the Federation, three of which have benefited from international participation. All in all, 3,000 young people have thus helped to plant 15,000 trees. *"For us the work camps are a way of demonstrating our awareness in response to desertification, which I consider to be one of the crucial problems seriously threatening the world,"* he explains. His words are echoed by Alain, Jacky, Olivier and three of their friends, all of them Swiss : *"We think that this is a far more practical and more exciting way of contributing to development than sending off billions of invisible dollars which get lost somewhere between Europe and Africa."*

Diomansi Bomboté
BREDA/Dakar

To find out more ...

Unesco Clubs Manual : explains what they are, the spirit that motivates them, indicates a range of activities that can be organized by a Club and practical advice on setting one up. In addition to the Preamble and Article I of Unesco's Constitution, annexes contain lists of organizations in the UN system, International Decades, Years, Weeks and Days to be celebrated, addresses of Unesco Regional Offices and a chart comparing and contrasting the characteristics of Unesco Clubs and Associated Schools. Intended as a working instrument for anyone wishing to set up a Club and for Club leaders and members. New Edition 1990. 80 pp. in English, French, Spanish and Arabic.

International Directory of Unesco Clubs : provides names and addresses of 3,200 Unesco Clubs, Associations, Centres and Federations of Clubs in over 90 countries as of July 1987. For certain countries, the Directory also lists the United Nations Associations which take a particular interest in Unesco's programme.

Inter-Club Unesco : published twice a year in English, Spanish and French, provides news on activities of the World Federation, new and older Clubs, meetings, seminars, workshops and action of all kinds. The generously illustrated Bulletin also gives members a voice in "The Clubs Have the floor", and offers regular reports on Co-Action projects many of them have adopted.

Confluences : documents produced by *Confluences*, a liaison body set up by the World Federation of Unesco Centres, Clubs and Associations (WFUCA) to spread information on the aims and programmes of Unesco. The latest publication, No. 16, entitled "Pulling Together... To Do Better" is a "Guide to Unesco's Third Medium-Term Plan". Intended for Club leaders, members and those responsible for Associated Schools and youth movements, it uses clear language to describe action decided by the international community for 1990-1995 to meet the challenges presented by the evolution of a world undergoing great upheavals.

YES WE CAN ... TOGETHER. A bright and lively illustrated booklet of 100 pages describing the similarities and differences between, on the one hand, Unesco Clubs and Associations, and on the other, Unesco's Associated School Project, and explaining how their respective action often converges for a common goal. In English, French, Spanish, Arabic.

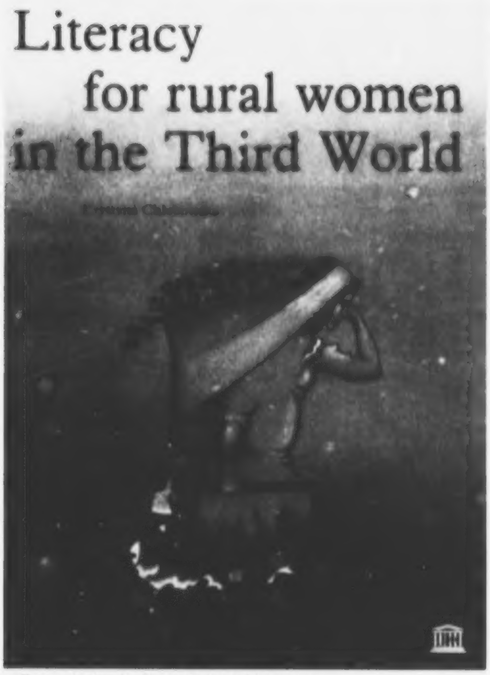
* * *

The WFUCA logo.

FURTHER INFORMATION, including on how to set up a Unesco Club, is available on request from :

The Division of National Commissions and Unesco Clubs
or
The World Federation of Unesco Clubs and Associations (WFUCA).

PAGE AND SCREEN



(Cover design by Ivette Fabbri Maïnero)

BOOKS

Literacy for Rural Women in the Third World

There are over 500 million illiterate women in rural areas of Third World countries. Although they play a vital role in agriculture, children's education and the preservation of the community's cultural identity, they rarely have an opportunity to make their voices heard and are seldom able to exercise rights grudgingly accorded and often unknown to them, including the right to education. Published on the occasion of International Literacy Year, this book examines the situation and analyzes the magnitude of a problem which the author, Krystyna Chlebowska of Unesco's Education Sector, describes as *"one of the international community's major tasks in the decades to come"*. Although projects and programmes to provide basic literacy for women and improve their condition are still exceptions and too seldom included in development plans, the book nonetheless provides examples of successful projects in all regions, which the author illustrates with her own eloquent photographs.

Literacy for Rural Women in the Third World, by Krystyna Chlebowska, Unesco, 1990, ills., 146 pp., 75 FF.

Planning the Quality of Education

This volume draws largely on a workshop, organized last November by Unesco's International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP), to address the theme that *"planning the quality of education through informed decision-making requires the availability of accurate and timely information linking resource inputs to education, teaching-learning conditions and processes, and appropriate indicators of the knowledge, skills, and values acquired by students."* After a brief discussion of the concept of "quality", the book considers information requirements at different decision-making levels, explores the linkages between information and quality, the dialogue between producers and consumers of information, and associated technical issues. Finally it lists six research, training and co-operation needs, and some proposals for responding to each.

Planning for quality of education : the collection and use of data for informed decision-making, edited by Kenneth Ross and Lars Mählck. Unesco/IIEP/Pergamon Press, 1990, 180 pp., 85 FF.

PERIODICALS

Museum

Art Nouveau : an ill-known heritage. Art Nouveau, Jugendstil, Modernismo, Sezession .. the turn-of-the-century aesthetic movement (typified in the work of Guimard, Horta, Tiffany and others), was, with its swirl-like evocations of vegetation combined with nostalgia for neo-medieval forms, the first international architecture and design movement of the century. After more than half a century in the doldrums, this ill-known heritage is being revived, and museums around the world are playing an active role in the process. To prove the point, the richly illustrated articles in this issue of **Museum** (No. 167) present town houses converted into museums in Argentine, Belgium, Chile, Germany, the USSR, and Yugoslavia, as well as glassware, fabrics, furniture and other design items in museum collections far and wide.

Copyright Bulletin

Stadium Right. In "The right over an entertainment or event," José de Oliveira Ascensão, Professor at the Faculty of Law in Lisbon (Portugal), makes a plea for extension of the 1961 Rome Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations to include a fourth "neighbouring right", that of clubs and promoters who organize sporting events. So far, only Brazil provides a legal basis for such protection, in the stadium right. Also in this issue of Unesco's **Copyright Bulletin** (Vol XXIV, No. 2, 1990), Marlies Hummel of the IFO Institute for Economic Research, Munich (Germany), analyses "The Economic Importance of Copyright".

International Social Science Journal

Tales of Cities : The culture and political economy of urban spaces. The 20th century is, among other things, the century of urban growth. Indeed, it is estimated that, by the year 2020, the urban population will represent 57 % of world total, as high as 75 % in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Accordingly, as the surface of the Earth becomes increasingly covered by concrete, and sprawling conurbation, metropolis and megalopolis develop, the meaning of such ideas as the centre and boundaries of a city is also changing. People are already living in a succession of contiguous urban spaces, each one fragmented into specialized areas of work, production, services, housing and recreation. This issue of the **ISSJ** (No. 125) analyzes the processes of change and adjustment in New York City, Tokyo, Cairo, Jaipur-Vidyahar Nagar, cities in the USSR, Latin America and Nigeria.

The Unesco Courier

Sacred Places. The November issue moves heavenward from Stonehenge and ancient Egypt, to towers, temples, mosques, synagogues, churches and cathedrals around the world.

Publications and periodicals of the Organization are on sale at the Unesco Bookshop, or by order from Unesco Press, 7 place de Fontenoy, 75700 Paris, and in Member States through national distributors.

NEW UNESCO DATABASE DIRECTORY

The first edition of the Directory of Unesco Databases has just been published. The Directory contains all bibliographical, referral and and factual databases produced at Unesco Headquarters and the Field Office Information Services as well as those managed jointly by certain international non-governmental organizations and Unesco. Only databases which are operational and accessible to Member States appear in the directory, which will be regularly updated and also made available on diskette.

>>> *Clearing-House Co-ordinating Unit*

OF BOOKS AND WOMEN

"The status and role of women" was the central theme at a well attended exhibition held in Tunis from October 6 to 31.

On show were Unesco's publications and documents treating this issue, and, in particular, the socio-cultural promotion of women from northern African countries.

(Photo Unesco)

PRIORITY AFRICA NEWS

Unesco's "Priority Africa" programme now has its own publication - a biannual bulletin which will take stock of what the Organization is doing and results achieved. The first issue presents a broad outline of the programme, and the activities underway, complete with a list of Unesco publications concerning Africa.

The Priority Africa News Bulletin is available in French, English, Portuguese, Arabic and Swahili. Amharic and Hausa versions are also being prepared.

The magazine, which is extensively illustrated with photos and graphs, can be obtained through Unesco national Commissions.

The "Priority Africa" programme aims at mobilizing the solidarity and resources necessary to overcome the bottlenecks to African development and bring about a real improvement in living standards for the peoples of the continent.

Democracy in Africa : Which form will it take ?

Some 20 African intellectuals, including lecturers, researchers, legal experts, psychologists and sociologists, met in Kinshasa (Zaire), from September 12 to 14, to talk about democracy in Africa. This conference was organized by CERDAS (Centre for Co-ordination of Social Science Research and Documentation for Sub-Saharan Africa), with financial and technical assistance from Unesco.

The conclusions reached by the participants, from Benin, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Gabon, Rwanda and Zaire, amount to an outright condemnation of the one-party system, seen as the underlying cause of Africa's present crisis. They agreed, for example, that there can be no meaningful development without genuine democracy, and that the one-party system, a feature of the first 30 years of independence in most African States, is to blame for those countries' *"economic and financial stagnation"*. They stressed that the *"outward show of unanimity"* imposed by this system has led to *"standardization of thought, intellectual paralysis among senior executives, an automatic reaction of fear accompanied by a lack of confidence in the ordinary people, who are excluded from the management of the country, the stifling of creativity, and personality cults among leaders ..."*.

Corruption

In the participants' view, the last three decades have been a time of corruption on a grand scale, systematic plundering of State resources to benefit a minority, contempt for institutions, and social injustice. Hence the breakdown of development, reflected in the general population's apathy, lack of public spirit and any real enthusiasm.

For these specialists, then, a democracy requires *"trade union pluralism, media pluralism, observance of the principle of changeover of political power between parties, the outlawing of intolerance and violence, and equity in the distribution of national wealth."* These conditions are listed in a *"vade mecum"*, a *"code of conduct"*, as it were, drawn up for African Heads of State. It stipulates that *"democracy is not an optional factor of development, but rather one of the basic conditions for its establishment ... It is a process which calls for the training of leaders, the emergence of genuine culture and a democratic way of life, and the appropriate political institutions."*

Public censure

The participants did not confine themselves to singling out political leaders for public censure. They also questioned the attitude of many intellectuals who have not only been unwilling to take a stand, but have acquiesced in, sanctioned, or even originated decisions which should have troubled their consciences. A permanent think tank was therefore set up to monitor the process of democratization sweeping across the continent.

The African and foreign diplomats at the conference were struck by the frankness of the exchanges. For example, Professor Lapika Dimomfu (Zaire), Director of CERDAS, did not mince his words : *"After the advent of independence in the 1960s, in almost all the African States where a Western-style multi-party system of democracy was tried, it resulted in social unrest ."*

"These social disturbances made African leaders begin to doubt whether this political model was suitable for developing African countries. We then saw the emergence of political regimes which claimed to be 'Liberal' or 'Socialist'. The economic bankruptcy and severe crisis which this social system is now undergoing , and the collapse of the socialist regimes of Eastern Europe which served as 'models', today raise a fundamental question that has long been avoided, namely : What political system does Africa really need ?'.

His compatriot, Professor Olofio Ben Olomy, pleaded for matters to be allowed to take their course over time : *"The participatory role of ordinary citizens is the outcome of a long process of assimilation with good times and bad times following one another in the history of peoples. This assimilation* *of positive values has gradually woven the fabric of a culture, as tradition is handed down almost imperceptibly from one generation to the next."*

Professor Olofio even goes so far as to ask whether the single party has not played a positive role. Although it was severely criticized at the conference, it is not without supporters in Africa. *"The African one-party system,"* he maintains, *"deserves credit for setting up unique centres of authority with a view to creating an acceptable idea of the State, or indeed of the nation. The divisions imposed in the past by Europeans have been swept away. The Consciencism (of Nkrumah), Authenticity (of Mobutu), Ujamaa (of Nyerere) and the Third Universal Theory have quite often upset Europeans, who have not hesitated to incriminate the African one-party system. The one-party system has brought cultural and national identity, together with the stability, peace and national concord that it has generated."* He acknowledges, however, that *"the success of the one-party system has not gone hand in hand with better social and economic conditions, because the single party soon became a tool used by the ruling class to improve its social status."*

"Moreover," observes Professor Tshungu Bamesa of Lubumbashi (Zaire), *"the single party corresponds to an essential feature of African society, namely, the search for unanimity in community management. This is an elegant way of glossing over the divisions in African communities and opening the door to would-be dictators. Moreover, top bureaucracies have used the single party as a means of consolidating their political and economic power in the State apparatus."* This professor also sees the army in the African context as *"a tool for monopolizing power and settling old scores between factions."*

But the debate on democracy in Africa covers such a broad and controversial range of themes that it sparks widely divergent reactions which, in turn, often fuel the discussion. For instance, an African scientist, met in Nairobi, had this to say about the Kinshasa seminar : *"Today, more than ever, Africans must make an effort to think for themselves instead of being content to adopt models from outside. The failure of the socialist experiment in Eastern Europe must not be equated with the success of the Western model. Our salvation lies elsewhere. In the face of the shifting political and economic alliances in Europe and Western countries generally, the unification of Africa has become the number one priority. The concept of democracy that has come to us from the outside world is based on the law of free competition. However, the balance of forces in the world today is such that Africa is doomed to become the rubbish dump of the developed countries."*

Diomansi Bomboté
BREDA/Dakar

Finding true democracy without being content to adopt models from outside (Photo Unesco/Marc and Evelyne Bernheim).

DISTANCE EDUCATION IN AFRICA

Participants from 33 African Member States met in Arusha (Tanzania) from September 24 to 28 for the first panafrican meeting devoted to distance education.

Strategies and approaches, means available, results, difficulties and weaknesses of existing programmes were put under the microscope, and the possibilities offered by this type of out-of-school activity to respond to educational needs were discussed. The meeting also laid the foundations for continent-wide action.

To this end, Unesco will elaborate, with its African partners and the support of various financial organizations, a regional umbrella project incorporating the three essential elements for distance education development : information and research, specialist training, and the production of teaching materials.

EDUCATING FOR LOVE NOT WAR

Unesco's most formidable task is expressed in one of its longest Recommendations - concerning Education for International Understanding, Co-operation and Peace and Education Relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1974). At this point, Hercules would doubtless throw in the towel, but the Consultative Committee "on Steps to Promote the Full and Comprehensive Implementation of the Recommendation", holding their 3rd Session in Moscow from September 24 to 28, continues to persevere. It called for preparation of an Action Plan and two intergovernmental conferences on international education and stressed that activities in this field should be skill-oriented, like mastering the art of peaceful conflict resolution at personal, social and international level. In other words, through love - not war !

UNESCO - UNEP COOPERATION

The bureau of Unesco's Executive Board and that of the Governing Council of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) met for the first time on October 12 at Unesco's Paris Headquarters. On the agenda : cooperation between the two agencies, including preparation for the UN Conference on Environment and Development scheduled to take place in Brazil in 1992, on the 20th anniversary of the trailblazing UN Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm 1972). Unesco has allocated $11,180,700 over the 1990-91 period to "Environment and Natural Resources Management", of which $995,000 for activities to be executed in liaison with UNEP whose contribution is $1,200,000.

SILK ROADS COMMITTEE VISITS IRAN

The International Committee overseeing the Integral Study of the Silk Roads: Roads of Dialogue has formally approved the programme proposed for the Study for the next five years, including seven expeditions over the ancient land routes.

At a meeting in Teheran from September 22-27, the Committee also gave the green light to several new project activities, including publications on epics from the various countries along the Silk Roads, a documentary on travellers along the routes and a study of ancient caravanserais and postal systems.

The Committee, overwhelmed by the warmth of the welcome from the Iranian scientific community, was also able to visit north-eastern Iran including the cities of Meched and Nichapour, which lie on the route once followed by Marco Polo.

YOUNG ASTRONOMERS

The 18th International School for Young Astronomers, organized since 1966 by the International Astronomical Union with support from Unesco and ISESCO (Islamic Organization for Education Science and Culture), was held in Marrakech (Morocco) from September 4 to 21.

Offerred for the first time in a francophone country, the three-week school, comprised of courses in modern astronomy and associated subjects (nuclear and space sciences, engineering, etc.) was conducted by an eminent international faculty and attended by about 50 students from 16 countries.

Priority was given to students from Magreb countries who had completed three years of university study, the minimum requirement.

PROTECTION OF REUNIFIED GERMANY'S CULTURAL HERITAGE

Invited by German Foreign Minister, Hans Dietrich Genscher, Unesco Director-General, Federico Mayor, was on October 17, the first Head of a UN Agency to visit what was formerly East Germany.

On the programme : the contribution which Unesco might make towards protection of the environment and particularly that of the cultural heritage.

This is notably the case for the famous Bauhaus in Dessau and the Franckeschen Foundations in Halle which house Germany's most ancient library.

All aboard... Sailing the Silk Roads

Under a cloudless sky, the blue and white flag of the United Nations fluttering high above her decks, Oman's Royal Yacht, the Fulk Al Salamah, or "Ship of Peace", turned her bows away from the quay and, surrounded by a flotilla of historical boats and heralded by a fanfare of trumpets, nosed her way out towards the Venice lagoon, setting out on the first leg of Unesco's Silk Roads maritime expedition ; a five-month voyage that will take her halfway around the world to Japan.

The "Ship of Peace" at her berth in St Mark's Basin in Venice (Photo Unesco/Dominique Roger).

On board, the first members of a multi-disciplinary international team of more than 70 scholars and journalists who will participate in the voyage, began to settle into their cabins and prepare for the first round of meetings and seminars planned during the journey.

22 ports in 15 countries

One of the most ambitious of the 10-year Study's projects, the maritime expedition will visit some 22 ports in 15 countries, before reaching its destination in Osaka next March. The Gulf crisis had cast a doubt over the expedition, but the last meeting of the Bureau of the International Committee leading the project, held in Tehran in September, recommended that, given the advanced state of preparations, the voyage should be maintained. Although the Fulk Al Salamah will not pass through the Gulf, the U.N. Security Council has been advised of her passage through the nearby Red Sea and the Arabian Sea.

The maritime route was opened up for the west in the first century A.D. with the discovery of the monsoon, whose winds blow steadily from the southwest across the Indian Ocean from March to September, and from the northeast between November and January. This allowed the Romans to by-pass the Persian middle-men, the robber barons of Central Asia and marauding pirates of the Arabian peninsula, and trade directly with the Orient for the first time. Thus, Roman vessels laden with goods, gold bullion and coins could pick up these winds and, leaving from the Red Sea Ports, could cross the Indian Ocean in about 40 days, including stopovers at various ports en route. In November they would begin the return voyage, this time with cargoes of exotic eastern goods in their holds such as cinnamon, pepper, dyes, sandalwood, palm oil, cane sugar, muslin and ivory.

From India, the maritime route continued across the Bay of Bengal, through the Malacca Straits, around the

Indochinese peninsula and up to the Chinese port of Guangzhou.This leg was mainly travelled by Indian sailors, and, according to archaeological evidence, was the main route used to transport China's silk at the end of the first century A.D.

Much later still, *"Chinese silk also travelled to the Philippines along an extension of the Silk Road,"* author Han Suyin told a Pen International seminar on the origin and role of travel literature, which started in Venice, just prior to the expedition's departure. *"From Manila, it was shipped in Spanish Galleons to Acapulco (Mexico) and eventually into the hands of the princes of the Catholic Church,"* she added.

"A vast repository of human history"

The Unesco expedition aims to follow these sea-lanes of old, putting together the pieces that make up its chequered history.

"Never before has there been a comprehensive study carried out of the vast repository of human history that is the silk roads network," Unesco's Director-General Federico Mayor told the inauguration ceremony at the Doge's Palace in Venice two hours before the ship left port on Tuesday October 23. *"No individual, or even nation could organize such a study - Unesco has thus risen to the challenge."*

This second expedition under the Unesco Integral Study of the Silk Roads : Roads of Dialogue follows the successful desert route expedition in China last July-August, and is the fruit of three years of detailed planning, difficult negotiations and a great deal of faith. The enormous cost of putting it together has largely been met by the enthusiastic participation of the countries touched by the Silk Roads, most notably Oman, which has not only contributed the ship and its 120 member crew, but is also paying for the fuel which, at full speed, is consumed at a rate of 50 tonnes a day ! Several countries have waved harbour dues and port costs, including Italy, and made facilities available for the various seminars that will take place as well as access to numerous historical sites. Financial support has also come from Asahi TV in Japan and MBC TV in South Korea, both of whom have television crews on board the ship, along with a crew from Omani TV and China's CCTV. Their presence, along with journalists from several major newspapers, will ensure that the excitement of the expedition, and the rediscovery of these age-old sea-routes can be shared with the world.

"On a scientific level," explains Dr. Nilofer Shaikh, 39, of Pakistan, *"this voyage is something very new. It is a 'rolling seminar',that will allow for meetings with different experts from all over the world to exchange ideas and knowledge that afterwards, I will be able to take back to my own country and share with my fellow archaeologists there."*

"I think it's going to be very exciting," bubbles historian Dr. Ahmat Adam from Malaysia. *"We will be going into the field, we will be exposed to those cultures of which we have spoken and read about for so long. We will be trying to capture the spirit of the past to understano today's world."*

"But it's more than that," interrupts Soviet geographer Igor Shabduzasulov, 32, *"it is also a symbol of the relationships between different cultures and people. It's a symbol of unity !"*.

Sue Williams
Venice

Ports of call along the maritime route

Port	Estimated date of arrival
ATHENS	25.10.90
KUSADASI	29.10.90
ALEXANDRIA	02.11.90
PORT SAID	05.11.90
PORT SUEZ	06.11.90
MINA RAYSUT	13.11.90
MINA QABOOS	17.11.90
PORT QASIM	27.11.90
MORMUGAO	05.12.90
COLOMBO	11.12.90
MADRAS	19.12.90
PHUKET	28.12.90
PORT KELANG	02.01.91
SURABAYA	09.01.91
BANGKOK	18.01.91
MUARA	27.01.91
MANILA	03.02.91
HUANGPU	09.02.91
QUANZHOU	14.02.91
PUSAN	22.02.91
HAKATA	27.02.91
OSAKA	03.03.91

THE SILK ROADS ON STAGE

UNESCO

The voyages of Marco Polo along the Silk Roads have been translated into contemporary stage play which will be presented by the French company Theatre Dest next year.

The play, which was written by French author Pierre Halet, presents the adventures of the Venitian merchant as imagined by a presenter of radio programmes ... and his cat.

The production has been listed as an associated project of Unesco's Integral Study of the Silk Roads: Roads of Dialogue (see Sources No. 19), and will open in the town of Rombas in France's Lorraine region next April before being presented at the renowned Avignon Theatre Festival and departing to tour the national and international circuits.

Voyage en Soie

ROMANIA : BACK IN FROM THE COLD

A gala cultural evening, "Return to Unesco", was held at Headquarters on October 22 in the presence of Romanian Prime Minister, Petre Roman, who had come to Paris especially for the occasion. Organized by the Romanian Permanent Delegation to Unesco, the programme included sonatas by Georges Enesco played by violinist Silva Marcovici and pianist Valentin Gheorghieu, followed by a performance of "Medea" in a new production conceived and directed by Andrei Serban who recently returned from exile in the U.S. to become Director of the Bucharest National Theatre.. An exhibition of sculptures by Mircea Spataru and paintings by Silvia Radu completed the event which, according to Dan Haulică, the first Romanian Delegate to Unesco with the rank of Ambassador since 1976, marked "the full reintegration of Romania with the Organization after 14 years of 'self-isolation' ".

WORKING TOGETHER...
Establishing co-operative links between scientists in Eastern and Western Europe was the main objective of a Unesco organized conference which united some 105 scientists, academics and industry leaders in Berlin's historic Reichstag Building from September 25-27.

The East European participants stressed that a lack of funding and access to information posed major obstacles for them. *"East European countries are like a patient who has undergone major surgery and needs a period of convalescence during which nourishment and support are provided,"* said Blagovest Sendov, President of Bulgaria's Academy of Sciences. The meeting is one of a series of regional colloquiums organized under the banner of "**Science and Technology for the Future**". The next colloquium will take place in Acapulco (Mexico) from December 3-6.

MAB NORTHERN SCIENCES NETWORK

Representatives of all Arctic countries (US, USSR, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Canada, and Finland) except Iceland, attended a meeting of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Northern Sciences Network (NSN) from September 25 - 27 in Rovaniemi (Finland). Discussion centred on co-operative activities, notably for monitoring of global change. An upsurge of interest in these sensitive ecosystems, particularly in light of predicted global warming, has led one Unesco MAB specialist to prophesy that the 1990s could well be the "Decade of the Polar Regions".

Consequently, extension of the Biosphere Reserve Network in the region was also high on the agenda. Among initiatives in this respect, a U.S.-USSR proposal for a Chukotka Bering Strait/ Alaska International Park has been recommended for both biosphere reserve and World Heritage nomination.

>>>> Secretariat, MAB-NSN Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, Rovaniemi, Finland

Executive Board : Savings and efficiency

Given the *"aggravation of the international economic and financial situation"*, Unesco must further *"reinforce efforts at programme concentration"* and cut its spending, if it is to become more effective, use its resources better and increase the *"impact"* of its activities. Thus, concentration, savings and efficiency were clearly the key words at the 135th session of the Executive Board, which was held at Headquarters from October 8-25.

The Board's major task was the preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 1992-1993, based on the constituent programmes of the Third Medium Term Plan (1990-1995). The proposals of the Member States and other organizations, the preliminary proposals of the Director General, and the Board's debates during this session therefore led to a decision, adopted by consensus, according to which Federico Mayor was invited to formulate the Draft Programme and Budget that he will present to the General Conference in October 1991, along with the Board's point of view.

Global issues

This decision first sets out the criteria on which the choice of priority activities are based : contributing, within the framework of the intellectual, universal and ethical mission of the Organization, to the solution of the global issues confronting humankind ; meet the priority needs of developing countries, especially the least-developed, and strengthen co-operation between them ; exert a multiplier effect; and foster complementarity and co-ordination with other organizations of the UN system.

The Board also set down the lines, along which and while remaining within Unesco's fields of competence, future activities should be concentrated : basic education and literacy ; the environment ; the institutional development of the social sciences ; world heritage and cultural dimension of development ; the free flow of information and its wider and better balanced dissemination and the strengthening of the communication capacities in developing countries, particularly through the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) ; human rights and peace, and the Priority Africa programme and special programme on apartheid.

Finally, the Board recommended that the budget project be established on the same budgetary base as that of 1990-1991, but that it should propose only a *"reduced nominal budget increase"*. Given the effects of inflation, currency fluctuations and statutory salary increases, this clearly means that the Member States believe that the concentration of programmes and a concerted effort to economize will allow Unesco to do better by doing less, even in the hypothetical case of a drop in the Organization's *"buying power"*. ■

KUWAIT

With 38 votes for, one against and five abstentions, the Executive Board adopted a resolution on *"the destruction of educational, cultural and scientific institutions in the State of Kuwait, occupied by Iraq"* and the role of Unesco in the application of the resolutions taken by the UN Security Council.

The Board has expressed *"its deep anxiety"* especially *"concerning the violation of human rights, including, more particularly, the disruption of the educational process, the wilful mutilation of educational and cultural institutions and property and the destruction of the national cultural identity of the Kuwaiti people"*. It also *"strongly condemns all measures taken by the occupying power"* that lead to the continuation of these violations. Among the Board decisions were a call for assistance to Liberian refugees and support for the peace process in Central America.

World Decade for Cultural Development

The revival of the Library of Alexandria, the "Integral Study of the Silk Roads : Roads of Dialogue" and Commemoration of the Five-Hundredth Anniversary of the Encounter Between Two Worlds (1492-1992) are just a few of the flagship projects for the World Decade for Cultural Development (1988-1997).

But, going beyond these three gigantic projects, a web of diverse activities is being woven around the world to achieve the Decade's objectives. Aimed at fostering a new approach to development by acknowledging its cultural dimension, these focus firmly on the human being rather than mainly on quantitative and material growth.

The Decade's logo by Swiss painter Hans Erni.

To that end 65 Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations have submitted 456 projects, 89 of which are to receive an overall allocation of roughly one million dollars in 1990-1991, while 217 others have been awarded the "Decade Activities" label which can help open doors in the search for funding.

The selection by an intersectorial committee, which met in April and September 1990, was made in accordance with strict criteria : the inherent quality of the projects, of course, but also their contribution to regional or interregional co-operation and their interdisciplinary or innovative nature, with all due regard for geographical distribution.

For example, three East African universities will be carrying out a joint study on vernacular ritual, music, dance and theatre. The material, collected by researchers in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, will be put to use in villages to improve communication in the service of development, health, family planning, and literacy training.

After the ravages of war, a study of traditional Afghan architecture will be of great value to architects and others responsible for rebuilding the country. In Mongolia a project aimed at reviving the traditional alphabet which was replaced by Cyrillic in the 1930s will help the present generation to rediscover its cultural roots.

In Egypt the impact of modern technology on traditional culture in rural areas will be studied in two villages. In Latin America and the Caribbean, Unesco is supporting a programme for the preservation of popular art through the development of craft communities and travelling exhibitions.

In Europe, a study has been launched in Bulgaria to analyse the cultural interdependence of countries bordering on the Danube. This project reflects a trend towards greater East-West co-operation through the discovery of historic and cultural affinities between the two former blocs.

To this could be added, almost at random : a meeting in Bolivia on mass urban housing ; a project on the "Slave Route" (Haiti) or "The Baroque World" (France) ; a meeting of Caribbean women writers (Trinidad and Tobago) ; or a Dutch-initiated project on garden traditions of the world.

When culture and development come into contact, the field of action is practically boundless. And so, alas, are the needs ...

Max Cerrans

■ AMERINDIA 92

About 30 specialists met in Ottawa (Canada) from September 20 to 21 to continue preparations for Amerindia 92, one of the main activities scheduled as part of celebrations marking the Five-Hundredth Anniversary of the Encounter Between Two Worlds (1492 - 1992).

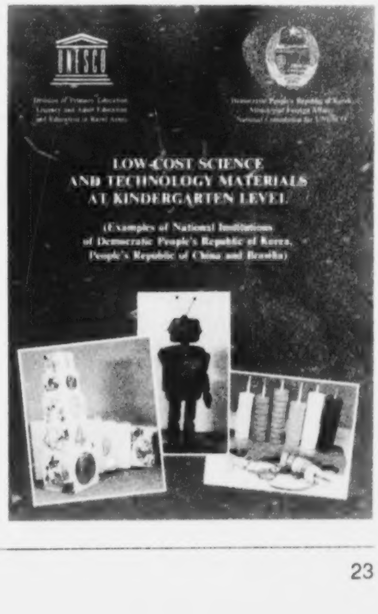
At the meeting, organized by the Canadian Commission for Unesco, plans were elaborated for two conferences, the first to take place in Winnepeg (Canada) in 1991. A second conference, in Oaxaca (Mexico) in 1992 will pursue investigation of a vast set of issues focusing on the memory, experience, hopes and future of the original peoples of the Americas.

■ LOW-COST SCIENCE TEACHING MATERIALS

Low-cost science and technology teaching materials are presented in three charming "photo-albums" just produced by the National Commission for Unesco of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In the books, which correspond to Kindergarten, Primary and Secondary levels of schooling, colour photos and drawings show equipment ranging from toys and games to gain knowledge (colours) or learn skills (counting) and generally stimulate the imagination and develop a creative sense, to more complex devices for experiments in water convection, simple electronics, optics or energy conversion.

The innovative, low-cost materials and equipment were made in the DPRK, China and Brazil and exhibited at an interregional workshop organized by Unesco in Pyongyang (DPRK) in 1987.

>>> *Education Documentation Centre*



LOW-COST SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY MATERIALS
AT KINDERGARTEN LEVEL

(Examples of National Institutions
of Democratic People's Republic of Korea,
People's Republic of China and Brazil)

looking ahead

'Seeing" with the fingers (Photo Unesco/Michel Claude).

AN EXHIBITION FOR THE BLIND

Among activities planned as part of the World Decade for Cultural Development, an exhibition, "Graphic Tactile Art," will be on view at Headquarters from January 3 to 15, 1991. The show, organized at the initiative of the Belgian Permanent Delegation to Unesco, is designed to contribute towards greater participation of the blind in the world of art. Using an innovative technique drawing on the principles of Braille, graphic tactile art adds a dimension of volume to drawings, engravings and other prints. The resulting relief enables the blind to "see" these compositions with their fingers. Some 60 works will be exhibited, notably those by Jean-Michel Folon, Octave Landuyt and from the Fondation Herge.

YOUNG PEOPLE AS DIPLOMATS

The traditional session of the "United Nations General Assembly simulated by young people" will be held from December 12 to 14 at the International Conference Centre in Geneva (Switzerland). Organized under the auspices of the Swiss National Commission for Unesco, high school and university students are invited each year, since the event was first staged in 1954, to simulate debates in the UN General Assembly on political, social and economic problems of contemporary diplomacy. The 350 participants from 40 schools, including a number of institutions taking part in Unesco's Associated Schools project, will, this year, demonstrate their skills of argumentation around four themes : international security, the rights of the child, censorship and freedom of expression.

NGOs

The Permanent Committee of Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) in consultative relationship with Unesco, will meet at Headquarters on December 12 and 13 to plan implementation of the resolutions adopted by the 22nd Conference of NGOs held in Paris last June. These notably concern the role of NGOs in the fields of literacy and education for all, and in areas dealing with the cultural dimension of communication.

SILK ROADS : AT SEA AND ON LAND

On December 11, the Fulk al Salamah (Ship of Peace) will dock at Colombo in Sri Lanka where a seminar on "Sri Lanka as the mid-point in the East-West Silk Route and the Centre of Convergence of the Cross-currents of Buddhist Philosophy" will be held in Anuradhapura from December 12 to 16. In Madras (India), December 21-22, specialists will discuss two themes : "India and the Roman World from the 1st to the 4th centuries A.D." and "India's Cultural Relationship with East and South-East Asia between the 4th and the 13th centuries A.D." After celebrating the New Year at Phuket (Thailand), the ship will sail on to Malacca (Malaysia) for a colloquium on "Malay Maritime Traditions and the Silk Route" (January 2 to 6), then to Surabaya (Indonesia) for a seminar on "Harbour Cities Along the Silk Roads" from January 9 to 13. From there it's full steam ahead to Bangkok, Brunei, Manila, Quanzhou, Kyongju and Osaka.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

Our December issue will FOCUS on COMMUNITY RADIO. Technically simple and relatively inexpensive, community radio provides a vital link for remote populations, an invaluable support for development and education, and a forum for ideas. Unesco has been working in this field for more than 10 years, establishing community radio stations, training personnel and engineering innovative, low-cost equipment especially designed for use in the developing world.

unesco sources

RADIO LA VOZ DEL MINERO

ON THE AIR...
THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY RADIO

MARCEL MARCEAU MIMES COPYRIGHT

PROMOTING WOMEN'S STUDIES IN ASIA

N° 21- DECEMBER 1990

IDEAS AND OPINIONS

The Silk Roads - and Africa?

Mr Jean Bosco Mpankima
Department of Monuments and Sites
Brazzaville, Congo

I particularly enjoyed your dossier on the Silk Roads, (Sources, No. 18, September). The subject is rich, captivating, still holding many mysteries, and, in fact, close to my own activities and preoccupations: a re-reading of the ancient Teke civilization in Central Africa, which, in my opinion, would merit another Unesco-sponsored "integral study". The Foundation I direct, intends to make this civilization better known through annual conferences and construction of a museum.

But how is it that the current of exchange during the Silk Roads period involved only East and West and not Africa, particularly the southern shores of the Mediterranean, where you mention only one 14th century traveller - Ibn Battuta?

Since the Silk Roads project will continue through 1997, its ramifications in Africa will certainly be the subject of future discussion. Already, during the Maritime Expedition now underway (see p. 23), seminars in Alexandria, Cairo and Port Suez, for instance, addressed the theme **"Cultural Exchanges between Eygpt and other countries of the Silk Roads during the Islamic Period,"** *while in Oman,* **"The Significance of Omani Maritime Heritage to the Silk Roads"** *stressed the importance of East African ports such as Zanzibar and Mogadishu. An Associated Project, moreover, is preparing a documentary film on the Trans-Saharan caravan Route -* ***Ed.***

All the Continents Meet

Mr Vijay Bhunjun
Public Relations Officer
Mauritius Federation of Unesco Clubs
Triolet, Mauritius

Though modest in appearance, Unesco Sources presents the full scope of the Organization's wide variety of activities at "*grassroots level*". All the continents and their cultures meet in Sources. It also services as a valuable guide for the planning and programming of Unesco Clubs activities and should be very useful for planning and research institutions as well as our major libraries.

Thirsty for More

Mr N.S. Saberi
Jurist
Paris

Your issue on the Silk Roads (No. 18, September) has the power to set us dreaming. Understandably, your report leaves us thirsty for more and eager for a full report on the integral study. What we have seen so far is necessarily fragmentary and, while marked with a universal dimension, must conform to the exigencies of the current political situation. For example, all the civilizations along these routes are mentioned with the exception of Persia. And yet it was across the Iranian plateau that threads of silk were spun between the countries of the East and via Venice, to the entire West.

I was especially moved by the description of the oasis town of Hami, but there again, to my regret, this crucial point was not indicated on your map. Perhaps the omission lends even more mystery to this legendary site.

We also regret that, in order to keep the map simple and readable, Hami and indeed many other sites, were not included. As for Persia, see Sources No. 20, for a report on a meeting in Teheran (September 22-27) of the Silk Roads International Committee. On the occasion, the specialists met with the Iranian scientific community and visits to cities along the Marco Polo route in northeast Iran. And there will definitely be more on Persia before the Project ends in 1997. ***Ed.***

Deeper Knowledge

Mr Noel Compaore
Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

As a high school student, I wanted to let you know how important your magazine is to me. Since I began receiving Unesco Sources, I find that my knowledge has been considerably broadened and deepened, especially in the fields of education and literacy, but also in many other aspects of life on our planet.

I send you sincere congratulations, encouragement and moral support.

Readers, this page is yours. Please don't hesitate to share your opinions, your criticism, your comments on Unesco's activities. To your pens !

INSIGHT

"Development from below"

I have always believed that a treasure lies dormant in each and every one of us. The passive attitude of always being at the receiving end and never expressing oneself condemns the individual and the group to a state of dependence. Groups that are unable to give, to assert themselves and to develop their own culture, language and music eventually lose their sense of group consciousness. Groups gain their strength from communication and equal exchange between partners.

The first time I worked on a community radio project - in Abitibi, a mining region in northern Quebec - our principal motivation was this desire for participation. We wanted to get people to stop sitting passively by their radios and TVs, and instead come to the station and use their talents to shape and enliven their environment, propose activities and support community organizations' information and educational work.

Radio is the only medium that allows ordinary citizens, children and young people to participate in communication in this way. It is easy to "deprofessionalize" and "democratize" communication on radio : with a microphone, a couple of turntables and a console it is possible to address one's community in the privacy of their homes.

I have noted that what happens is much the same all over the world. Without any direction, local people set up community radio stations, which may differ in style but whose common aim is to promote development through participation.

Most development takes place at the local level and it is there that vital energies can be either stifled or fortified, but the major networks, with their gigantic resources, are daily extending their tentacles, spreading a uniformity of language and culture, to the great detriment of the wide diversity of local cultures and forcing the vast majority of human beings into one mould.

Our mission is to counter this "development from above" with "development from below" : to proceed from the local to the global level with new networks based on an autonomous local communication medium dedicated to the development of a collective consciousness.

Our task is difficult and our means are few. All hangs on the vital instinct that makes every human being want to communicate. More and more of us are engaged in this effort to involve ordinary people in the modern communication media - happily so.

Michel Delorme
President,
World Association of Community Broadcasters

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PEOPLE

FAIR PLAY CHAMPIONS

The gymnast Vera Caslavska (Czechoslovakia), the tennis players Chris Evert (U.S.A.) and Ken Rosewall (Australia), and the skier Pirmin Zurbriggen (Switzerland) were awarded the Pierre de Coubertin International Fair Play Trophy at Unesco Headquarters on November 5. In the highly competitive world of sport, *"along side, and frequently in total contradiction with the financial considerations which too often seem to predominate, there is dignity, generosity, equity - in other words, fair play,"* declared Director-General, Federico Mayor, at the prize-winning ceremony. *"Behaviour reflecting these qualities is rare - and therefore all the more worthy of admiration."*

Aimed at highlighting such exemplary acts, the trophies are awarded each year, under the auspices of Unesco, by the International Committee for Fair Play.

Gymnast Vera Caslavska holds her trophy aloft (Photo Unesco/Michel Claude).

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS DAY

... is celebrated on December 5 in honour of all those who offer their expertise freely to those in need.

Many of these people work under the United Nations Volunteer Programme (UNV), which was created in 1970 to serve as an operational partner in international development. Unesco has 30 such volunteers among its ranks, all of whom are working in the field of education. This number is expected to increase in the near future.

The UNV specialists are assigned to work in the field for a minimum of two years, their role being to use their expertise in the application of practical, priority tasks.

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Putting the magic back into the carpet

"There is always a tradition behind a carpet, even the most sophisticated ones coming from the urban workshop ... there is always a story that passes through the rug". According to Unesco consultants, Jim Williams and Roland Gilles, bringing these traditions back to life would not only revive a flagging industry, but could also give new vigor to Afghanistan's war-ravaged economy. To this end, the two antique carpet experts have begun a project to teach Afghan carpet makers the skills used by their forebears; skills that have been lost over the last 50 or 60 years with the introduction of chemical dyes, centralization of the industry, the use of poor quality wools, and war.

Afghanistan is a long way from Williams' birth-place in the American state of Arkansas. He *"came to carpets"* via mediaeval Spanish literature, which demanded *"some inkling of Arabic...and then while I was studying Arabic in Damascus, I learnt to repair carpets"*. In 1978, the 45 year old American teamed up with Parisian, Roland Gilles, 46, who had also developed a passion for carpets while teaching French in Kuwait and Iraq. Together they opened a showroom in Paris and travelled extensively, haunting bazaars from Beirut to Kashgar, seeking out those who could teach them traditional carpet-making techniques. They now hope to give back the knowledge they have accumulated in the hope of keeping alive an ancient craft and contributing to Afghanistan's reconstruction.

"We are trying to encourage Afghan refugees to go back to their homes by opening up new employment opportunities there," says Williams, who is also a Director of International Rescue Committee, a non-governmental refugee-aid organization founded by Albert Einstein. Under the aegis of the Unesco led "Programme of Assistance to Afghanistan", funded by the Aga Khan, Williams and Gilles conducted a first natural dye workshop in the northern Afghan city of Mazar-i-Sharif last May-June. *"The Afghan weavers are among the best in the world,"* adds Gilles. *"There is a lot of scope for promoting and diversifying the industry."*

Why the emphasis on natural dyes?

"They are the key to rehabilitating carpets the world over," explains Williams. *"The old masters were able to use several colours in each rug because the natural dyes are extremely colourfast; they don't fade in the sun and they don't run when you wash them but maintain their magic, jewel-like quality. Chemical colours, which are used throughout Asia today, run whenever water touches them, so carpet makers restrict the colours and compensate by multiplying the design. This, combined with the poor wool used, results in hard, brittle carpets of terrible quality that are sold on the international market for ridiculously low prices. Natural dyes such as madder root, are also easily found at local markets in Afghanistan."*

Jim Williams (left) and Roland Gilles in their Paris workshop (Photo Unesco/Sue Williams).

Under the project, another series of workshops will be held in 1992, but this time they will be set up as permanent training centres for a new generation of Afghan carpet makers, learning from the past to ensure their future.

Sue Williams

Jake Mills : pioneering community radio in Africa

"Community-based radio broadcasting could be the least costly mass medium for development in media-starved rural Africa. It could promote positive cultural identity using local languages, which are ineffectively used on national broadcasting stations usually accessible only to urban and elite audiences."

That is the commitment and guiding principle of Jacob Lanquaye Mills, Ghanaian broadcast engineer par excellence who, for a decade now, has been one of the central players in an intrinsically radical Unesco programme to develop community radio in rural Africa.

Mills, 61, father of three girls and a boy, is an unassuming, contemplative man with the calmness of a calculative technologist, the measured erudition of a laboratory scientist, and the expressive laughter of one satisfied that he is contributing to tangible social progress in Africa.

"Kenya was the first station I built," Mills said. It was the Homa Bay Community Broadcasting Station which started transmission in the Luo language on the shores of Lake Victoria in May 1982. His most recent projects are two community services in his home country, Ghana. The first, at Apam, started broadcasting three years ago (see p. 13). The second, at Dormaa Ahenkro, about 450 kilometres northwest of Accra, should start transmission soon.

A democratic approach

"The important thing about these stations is that they are to be community and rural broadcasting stations," Mills said. *"You try as much as possible to use local materials."*

Mills designs the equipment and supervises their fabrication, construction, installation and testing. It is important for him that each project develops the technical capacity of the local staff through direct participation.

"It's a training programme at the same time," he says. *"The whole approach must be democratic. You learn a lot if you involve the production staff, the users."*

The engineer began his radio career with a two-year post-graduate apprenticeship at the BBC in London which was followed by three decades at the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation from which he retired in 1980 as deputy director general in charge of engineering and technical services.

Retirement was only a step into an even more challenging and *"fulfilling"* service to Africa. With the UN Economic Commission on Africa as broadcasting consultant, Mills started work on designing a new radio mixer to suit African conditions - a project taken over by Unesco in 1981.

Traversing the continent, Mills saw first-hand the gross underdevelopment of Africa's broadcasting technical capacity and dependence.

"What I discovered was that we buy what the salesman tells us to buy, and in most cases the equipment is obsolete", he said.

Then, *"maintenance is another major problem. The qualified African broadcast engineer is very rare, so you cannot always blame them for not maintaining equipment. In some places, though, they do not have this excuse,"* Mills said.

What irritates Jake Mills is shoddiness and imprecision. He gets angry - which is rare - when equipment is left without maintenance. But knowing him, it is understandable why the kind of engineer Mills cannot stand is the one who shuns *"Reading, keeping abreast."*

Kwame Karikari
Ghana

(Photo Unesco/Abel Gayvolor).

■ UNESCO AND EGYPT SIGN ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY ACCORD

An agreement between Egypt and Unesco setting up the legal and administrative framework for the project to revive the Alexandria Library, was signed at Headquarters on October 26 by Director-General, Federico Mayor, and Egyptian Minister of Education, Ahmed Fathi Sorour.

The accord makes provision for three main bodies : an international commission, an executive board and an executive secretariat.

An important step has therefore been taken towards inauguration of the library, scheduled for 1995. Modeled on that inspired by Alexander the Great in Antiquity, the research centre specialized in Mediterranean culture which will contain some four million volumes, is already being hailed as a new "temple of learning." Its cost is estimated at $ 160 million of which $ 64 million has already been pledged.

Ahmed Fathi Sorour and Federico Mayor (Photo Unesco)

■ HAVEL GETS SIMON BOLIVAR PRIZE

Vaclav Havel, President of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, was awarded the Simon Bolivar Prize during ceremonies at Unesco Headquarters on November 21. In accepting the award, President Havel stressed the symbolism of this honour, bestowed upon him as he was attending the Paris summit meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which, he said, *"marked the definitive end to the deplorable consequences of World War II and a big step towards the ideal of an integrated Europe of peace-loving peoples."* The $ 25,000 prize is attributed for a meritorious contribution to *"the freedom, independence and dignity of peoples, the strengthening of solidarity among nations, and the fostering of their development."*

FACTS IN PHOTOS

MARCEL MARCEAU

MIMES

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Bip is "typing"...
Voice : *What are you doing ?*

... drawing ...

... sculpting
- But what are they doing ?

- Do you work for pleasure ?

- Do you get paid for it ?

Bip : You have to eat!

... feed your children

... keep warm

... clothes

**... books - culture
doesn't come cheap...**

FACTS IN PHOTOS

... offer jewelry, those little trifles mean so much

... style

... oh, perfume, too...

... a fat cigar

... a fancy car.

- But who pays for your work ?

- Me ?

To find out more !

A Video Cassette

from which these frames are taken, is available in English, French, Spanish, Russian and Arabic versions. Chinese in preparation.

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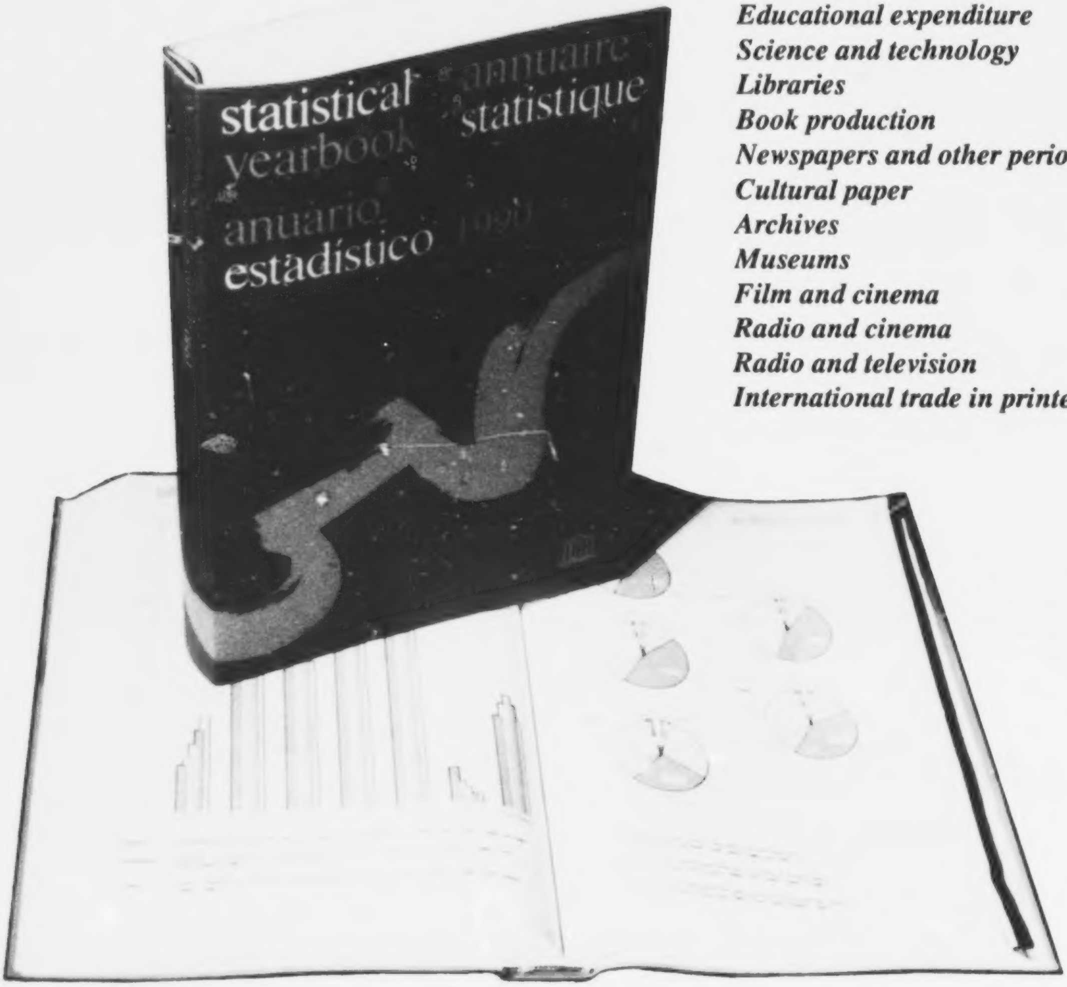
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On the air...

The development of community radio

In this age of communications, radio has proved to be one of its most powerful mediums. In 1938, Orson Welles and the Mercury Players threw thousands of Americans into panic with a radio-drama adapted from H.G Wells' "War of the Worlds", while in 1940, General Charles De Gaulle used the microphone of the BBC to rally the French to arms against the German occupying forces. International broadcasts are regularly jammed by the governments of many countries, who fear their impact on the local population.

Radio can also play a key role in development. Unesco's community radio programme promotes this role, using the airwaves as a key to knowledge and information, a means of cultural expression and independence, a forum for dialogue and participation (pp.9-10). Stations have been established around the world, including Sri Lanka (p.11), Ghana (p.13) and Tonga (p.14) and a range of equipment has been designed that puts a radio station within the reach of even the most remote communities (pp.15-16).

What is a community ? It's a group of people who live near each other and have similar interests. When Unesco decided in 1980 to promote the spread of community radio in developing countries, we found that everyone liked the idea, but they had very different views of what it meant.

There are some countries, such as Niue Island, so small that everybody knows each other. Some slightly bigger ones like Tonga are so close-knit that the people don't think of themselves as belonging to a particular town or island. *"The country is one community. One radio station is enough, and our job is to modernize it."*

It's in larger countries that the need is greater for separate local radio, particularly in isolated towns where the people have something special in common. They may be facing the same problems of farming, health and education. They may speak a minority language. Or perhaps, as in the Mahaweli region of Sri Lanka, they may be settlers who have all moved to a newly developed region.

Today there are few corners of our crowded little planet which have not been deeply influenced by the modern media of mass communications. Radio is the most generally available and easily accepted of these. It is cheap, uncomplicated and immediate. Its impact does not depend on education, literacy or any particular cultural background. It brings news and ideas from the outside world to the most remote places.

But information about the local community and its needs may be far more vital than national and world news. In some cases it may be truly a matter of life and death. In Kenya there were no radio studios outside the capital until a cholera epidemic gave a compelling reason for special programmes to be made for the regional transmitter at Kisumu. This led directly to the establishment in 1981 of the first true community radio station in East Africa at Homa Bay.

The importance of local participation in programme making is beyond dispute. But we found there were many complications in setting this up. For the most part these problems were neither

Community Radio - by the people, for the people (Photo Unesco/Mahaweli Community Radio).

technical nor related to the finding and training of suitable programme producers. They were more often to do with the concepts of low-cost, simple equipment and production techniques which make radio a more accessible medium to ordinary people.

A "hot" medium

Nearly all developing countries have a single national broadcasting organization which has operated since its creation as a monopoly. The relationship between community radio projects and these big institutions has sometimes been difficult to establish. Can a central authority designed to run a state service effectively manage a number of tiny local stations ? Can the structures and working practices be adapted to such a different scale ? More fundamentally, is there a conflict between serving local communities individually and fostering national identity ?

Radio is a "hot medium". It sends its messages into every home with a speed and effectiveness which makes all governments cautious about regulating it. But by limiting the scope of programmes and the range of transmission to a single community we have been able to set up small stations which are trusted and respected, even in countries with deep political divisions. There is no hard and fast rule, but we began from the idea that a community is a single medium-sized town and the rural area immediately associated with it.

We started by showing technicians in several countries how to put together their own small radio studios, transmitters and antennas from cheap and simple parts. We didn't want to just have them following instructions from a manual, although of course this was provided. We wanted to pass on the whole idea of modern technology being a tool for people to use for themselves, rather than a frightening and incomprehensible foreign product. We tried to emphasize the understanding of how to *"get your hands dirty"* with electronic circuits, instead of merely copying established designs. After all, in every developing country there are mechanics who keep old machines running and adapt them to new uses by fabricating parts and using their ingenuity. Why should it not be the same for electronics ?

The results were fascinating to watch. At one extreme we found technicians who were disturbed at the freedom being offered to them, and who preferred to retreat into a more conventional role as repair-men. On the other hand there were some who expressed disappointment that they could not be trained as fully-fledged designers in a few weeks ! But in between were many who picked up the principles and went off quietly to experiment for themselves.

A local engineer checks the Unesco FM transmitter at the new Dormaa Ahenkro community station in Ghana (Photo Unesco).

"Doing it yourself"

It's a truism to say that no news is good news in this work. Experience has shown that although some of the teaching *"falls on stony ground"*, a prolonged lack of feedback will often be followed several years later by a request for a few more of some component or other. On investigation, we are happy to learn that the ideas of *"doing it yourself"* have been put into practice, and a functional broadcasting system has been assembled without further outside help. It's only a pity that the people who do this tend to be so modest about it. Their example should be better publicized.

Such was the case in the tiny republic of Cape Verde, a group of volcanic islands lying 700 km off the coast of West Africa. In a country with few resources the best possible use is made of everything offered. When I worked there it never seemed to matter that we shared only a few faltering words of a common language, because the eagerness of the technicians to communicate overcame such problems. Their radio services depend entirely on Unesco FM equipment, and the way it has been deployed is ambitious and imaginative. With an inventory scarcely enough for one radio station they have been able to make three, one in each of the major islands Santiago, Sal and Mindelo. They have linked them together over seemingly impossible distances to form a network which shares programs in a complicated schedule every day. What is more, they have plans to extend their service to a number of new community stations on the smaller islands.

We are teaching people to help themselves and to help each other on a local level. More than this, we are showing them that they can do things which they thought only sophisticated professionals were capable of. Of course, some of the professionals don't like this ! But those who see their work as serving a social purpose rather than just being a career are always open to these ideas. They are the ones who love the medium for the good it can do.

Our projects over the last ten years have spanned every continent, and quite apart from the work they have been the starting point of many deep and lasting friendships between engineers and producers from strikingly different cultures.

In all these places we have helped to develop radio by introducing lightweight modern equipment and putting strong emphasis on training the local people to understand it, use it, repair it, and even to build it themselves. It doesn't matter too much exactly what the level of achievement is. The important point is to show them that they can do more than they thought. We are sowing the seeds of development. After this the rest is up to the people themselves.

Martin Allard
Unesco consultant
Engineer and Designer

FOCUS

MAHAWELI : A NEW CONCEPT IN BROADCASTING

The idea, 10 years ago of leaving the team that had pioneered regional radio in Sri Lanka to work on an experiment to introduce, what seemed to be, small scale community radio presented no real temptation. But when I realized the scope of this Unesco backed project and the real innovation to broadcasting that it represented, I could no longer resist and joined the project as Programme Director.

Mahaweli Community Radio (MCR) was set up as part of the Mahaweli Development Project, a multi-purpose irrigation project which included the resettlement more than 60,000 farming families on newly opened land in central Sri Lanka. The idea was to use radio to promote agricultural productivity and socio-economic development. The concept was one of "two-way" communication based on the direct participation of settlers in the planning, recording and editing of programmes. The station was to be set up within the organizational structure of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC), but maintain a large degree of independence. The $1.1 million project was financed under a funds-in-trust arrangement between Unesco and the Danish aid agency, DANIDA, with Unesco supplying the technical expertise to get the idea off the ground and train the local people.

In its early days MCR broadcast only three pre-recorded 30-minute programmes each week via the airwaves of regional radio stations, presenting information on such subjects as agriculture, animal husbandry, family planning, sanitation and education. This evolved into a daily one-hour rural programme which took the broadcasters and producers out of their offices and into the villages. This programme is made up of several segments dealing with and encouraging discussion on particular problems, presenting aspects of the villagers cultural life, as well as interviews promoting local knowledge and expertise or simple agricultural technology. For example, "Ayubowewa", one of the programmes which I have developed as an experiment to blend mass media with folk media, was adapted from the traditional devil dancing ritual of "Thovil". This is an all-night ceremony to help cure the sick by warding off evil-spirits. Central to this ritual is a provocative and hilarious conversation between the master of ceremonies and the drummer to keep the audience awake. In the radio programme, prepared in the villages by the villagers, this ritual is recreated and the dialogue directed towards curing social ills by correcting bad health and agricultural practices, such as the misuse of Malathion by some farmers to preserve the vegetables they send to market.

Working like this requires good preparation and the programmes take about four weeks to put together. The issues dealt with are first decided by the inhabitants of selected villages and MCR's producers who then contact the necessary experts or authorities. A meeting is arranged in the village, for which a "cultural show" is also organized. All these happenings are recorded and edited in the third week and broadcast during the fourth.

Resistance

This experiment has brought about radical changes to the concept of rural broadcasting in Sri Lanka, despite the indifference of many of those involved in conventional broadcasting. The conviction of those involved in the project and the strong backup given by Unesco has helped overcome some of the problems posed by this resistance and allow MCR to grow. One of the key results of that growth has been the decision to establish local community radio stations in selected areas of the Mahaweli settlements. The first, Girandurokotte community radio (GDR), serves about 20,000 settlers, and has just completed its fourth year of broadcasting. Whereas MCR goes to the villages, GDR encourages the villagers to come to the station. Its major thrust is to provide information to the settlers and obtain feedback on development activities. This station has now become a vital and personalized link in the community's life. I remember the case of a farmer, for example, whose wife had deserted him - his two young children went on air asking their mother to come home and the family was eventually reunited. A second local station has now begun operating, a third is under construction and another 10 are on the drawing board. Also through MCR, a corps of community radio producers, technicians and support personnel have been trained, mobile production facilities have been designed and constructed along with studio production facilities at the project's base in Kandy, and a technical laboratory and documentation library have been established. The most pressing challenge now for the producers of MCR is to keep convincing the policy makers to continue this expansion.

Wijayananda Jayaweera
Sri Lanka

APAM FM : "IT BELONGS TO THE COMMUNITY"

Empty egg cartons and dyed cocoa sacks provide the sound-proofing for the studios of the Apam Community FM station in Ghana; a station that, despite its modest means, is beginning to have a real impact on the lives of those it serves.

"The entertainment is excellent. But the station is attracting the people's attention to a variety of very important issues," said Dr. Charles Ntiamoah Takyi, head of the local Catholic Hospital.

Engineer Jake Mills (left) (see p.5) and a colleague, fine tune the equipment in Apam FM's main studio (Photo Unesco/Abel Gayvolor).

Transmission of the Unesco-sponsored station started in 1987. Part of the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation, GBC, it operates with a 10-watt transmitter and studio facilities and accessories donated by Unesco and installed by GBC staff under the supervision of Jake Mills (see p.5).

It covers a 20-kilometre (12-mile) radius, serving a population of 75,000 in about 25 small towns and villages. Most people earn their living from fishing or agriculture, and only about 30 % can read or write.

Until the station came, people tuned in to GBC's two shortwave channels. That rarely happens now, but listeners must acquire FM receivers for about 10,000 cedis (about $ 30), a price usually beyond their means.

Voluntary labour is always available to weed and tidy up the station's surroundings. Individuals donate cash or kind to promote or sponsor programmes. Artist, J.B. Essilfie, for example, did all the graphics decorating of the studios for free. A trader recently helped out with an interest-free loan of 100,000 cedis to order a dozen radio sets to sell at a discount to members of budding listeners' clubs. Yet, a poor supply of tapes forces the staff to reuse old ones. On top of this there is only one U-her tape recording machine, so the station is obliged to frequently repeat programmes.

At the moment, 50 % of transmission time is taken up by music, notes a study by a student at the School of Communication Studies in the University of Ghana and more than a third of the survey's respondents considered this the station's best activity.

"We find no need to buy cassettes any more. We get the music on FM all right," said Nana Kow Mensah, a 30-year-old fisherman.

The Apam station, proposed as a model for future community services across Ghana, must broadcast locally produced programmes 40 % of the time and connect to the GBC, 80 Kilometres away in the capital of Accra, for 60 %. It takes national and international news bulletins from Accra but reports on local news, and is on the air for almost 12 and a half hours daily.

It presents three 30-minute literacy programmes a week, but programmes aimed at communicating new development ideas are so far limited. Its programmes on fishing and farming, for example, do not yet involve experts in these fields.

However, the programme on public health by Dr. Ntiamoah Takyi is in expert hands. The doctor believes, *"a little bit more talk on child survival, nutrition, and family planning, for instance, can help to improve the poor health situation in the district."*

The most popular programme is "Bom Nkomo" (Let's have a chat), an early morning talk programme of advice on marriage, friendship, family relations, litigation and other social issues.

Most listeners' perception of the station's priorities is a bit woolly ; it is not one of introducing development or scientific ideas. Perhaps what most endears the community to its programmes is the use of the indigenous language, Fanti ...

Knotty questions

Limitations notwithstanding, the community's feeling that the station belongs to them is strong. Yet that sometimes raises knotty questions for the staff. They once came close to open conflict with the Apam chief who wanted to broadcast a message live. A compromise to pre-record him was not completely satisfactory. The chief was particularly irked by the cutting of allegedly *"distasteful"* portions apparently directed at particular citizens.

"Saying it belongs to the people does not mean they can use it anyway they want," states station head Baiden.

"But," says programme producer Nana Kobina Gyan, *"if we do not allow such appearances at all, in the end it could create difficulties between us and the community."*

The station must constantly be sensitive to a host of cultural and traditional factors. Dr. Takyi, who is also the Gomoa District Director of Medical Services, says neonatal tetanus kills most babies who die in the first week of life. He links this and many other deaths within the community, to the healing practices of a very popular local church.

The radio station's intervention could help reverse the situation. Handled poorly, the reaction could threaten its very existence. Both the doctor and the broadcasters, meanwhile, continue to wrack their brains for an effective and acceptable approach.

If they found a method to confront the deadly trend, the Apam FM station could make its greatest contribution to development in the district : saving lives.

Kwame Karikari
Ghana

TONGA'S TROUBLES TUNING IN ...

Setting up a community radio station is, theoretically, very simple with today's technology. However, the obstacles met when putting the theory into practice can be considerable. Unesco's attempts to mount an FM network in the Pacific archipelago of Tonga highlight the difficulties, and show how easily crossed-wires can short-circuit a good idea!

The kingdom of Tonga is made up of more than 160 islands spread over a vast 362,500 square kilometres in the central Pacific. The government-owned medium-wave (AM) broadcasting service covers the areas around the capital of Nuku'alofa, but does not reach the more remote islands. Boosting the AM service with standard equipment was costed at close to a million dollars and was ruled out. Unesco's experts, adopting a *"small is beautiful"* approach, suggested a network of FM stations on the islands of 'Eua, Ha'apai and Vava'u, which would serve initially to relay the national programme broadcast in AM *and* FM from the capital, and later be developed as independent community stations. FM stations are easy and cheap to install - the Unesco designed transmitter kit (see pp.15-16) costs about $750 - can also be powered by solar energy to give high quality, stereo radio reception over a limited area, keeping costs to a minimum. The idea sounded good, had worked elsewhere and was eagerly accepted, but...

AM via FM via SW

"The national programme signals could not be picked up by the relay stations," explains Tavake Fusimalohi, General Manager of Radio Tonga FM. *"To solve this problem, Unesco brought in a power booster to lift the FM transmitter on the main island of Tongatapu from 10 to 100 watts, but it still did not work. We then tried to overcome the problem with a Short Wave transmitter hoping that it could at least connect the station in the capital to the stations in Vava'u and Ha'apai. By doing so, though, it defeated the purpose of setting up FM there to broadcast in stereo."*

The end result was that listeners in the outer islands could tune into the national AM programme via their local FM station, thanks to a Short Wave transmitter, which also bounced Radio Tonga across the airwaves as far away as Australia, New Zealand and even the U.S.A and Canada!

On top of this the 'Eua relay station ran into difficulty because its solar powered panel had not been properly positioned. After a rainy period, its battery ran low and it was difficult to charge up again. Last August, the authorities gave up and closed the FM network down.

Unesco's Martin Allard, who trained three Tongan technicians to assemble and maintain the transmitters, insists that the equipment provided was adequate for the job. So what has gone wrong?

"The sad fact is that the original objectives of the project have been forgotten," Allard says. *"The material is not being used for its original purpose, which is to provide community radio stations broadcasting their own programmes, and not just a series of relay posts for the national station. The relay of the national programme was only ever intended, in the longer term, to be a secondary function."*

"A good idea," admits Tavake, *"but the FM station in Vava'u could not even be heard throughout Vava'u, and it's the same for the station in Ha'apai. So the idea for small community stations will not eventuate until there is further improvement to the 10 watt transmitters which were initially installed on these islands."*

A large part of the equipment problem may have been due to a lack of maintenance and expertise capable of carrying out repair work. The three technicians trained by Unesco for this task have been transferred to other assignments and their knowledge has not been passed on to their replacements. There is also obviously a lack of personnel such as programme producers or presenters.

Martin Allard works on one of the Tonga FM network's transmitters with Radio Tonga's chief engineer (Photo JEB).

Tavake says that while the FM station was operating he had to bring in five contract announcers to ease the work burden on his regular staff. Then, the station, while attracting listeners, could not win the support of advertisers. *"They preferred to advertise on the AM service which can be heard over a wider area of Tonga. The initial idea was to make the FM stereo service pay for itself, but it did not work out that way. It became completely uneconomical for us to continue."*

"Too fast... too radical"

The difficulties encountered in the Tonga example stress the importance of sufficient follow-up once a project is implemented. *"Faced with this experience,"* says Martin Allard, *"I have to conclude that our approach was too fast and too radical to be accepted. We needed to lay better foundations for the long term development of technical facilities and this could not be done effectively in any sort of 'crash course'. But let us look on the positive side. We introduced an FM service to the country which was immediately popular. Withoutintending to do so, we also introduced an international short-wave service which has meant that Radio Tonga can now be heard throughout the Pacific. Both of these innovations have contributed a great deal to the more effective use of broadcasting in Tonga."*

Sue Williams with
Pesi Fonua/Tonga

HANDCRAFTING RADIO : CHEAP AND SIMPLE

A radio station for $25,000? It sounds impossible in a world where electronics is a complex industry guided by computer programmes and operated by electronically controlled instruments. But the ingenuity and dedication of a team of experts working hand in hand with Unesco have made it a viable proposition.

If this seems a little out of the standard line of Unesco's work, it should be remembered that from its earliest days the Organization has been involved in technical assistance. In the communications area, over past 10 years, this development effort has been devoted to the design of low-cost, easy-to-assemble technical facilities that can be set up and maintained in developing countries without constant recourse to foreign aid and expensive spare parts and replacements. The main objective was to encourage the independence of developing country technicians and media operators and while there have been some ups and downs, the results have generally been very positive.

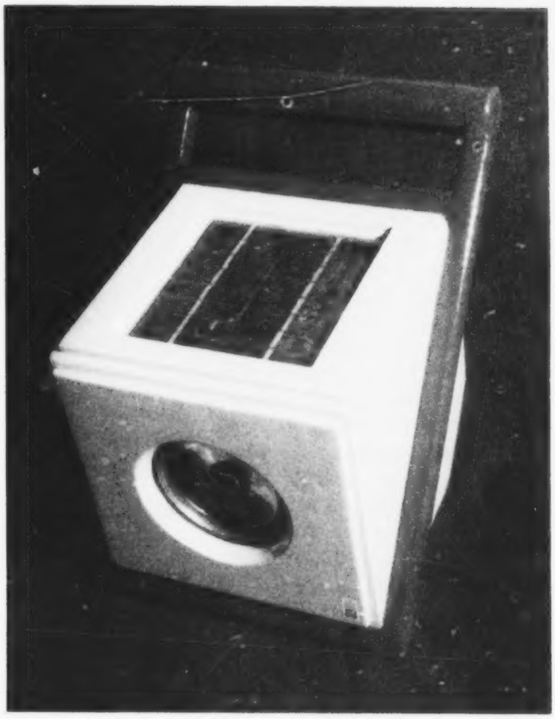
A series of workshops in the early 80s' got the ball rolling. Chinese, Cuban, Ghanaian, French and British engineers were brought together to work out the priority designs - those that could be easily assembled with simple technical knowledge and that could minimise costs. For many developing countries, the immediate needs are often much simpler than those required to support giant media industries and the participants initially decided on a 10 watt FM (VHF) transmitter and an audio mixing panel, both of which could operate on solar power for areas that lacked a regular electricity supply. Other production equipment such as tape recorders, monitor speakers and microphones could be purchased at reasonable prices.

Powered by a car battery

The transmitter, made of the highest quality parts and designed by Unesco consultant Martin Allard, is only slightly larger than a home HIFI amplifier; its size inevitably raises eyebrows when it is delivered on site. It comes in either kit form or fully assembled and costs about $750 or one fifth of the commercially available equivalent. The biggest part is the power supply converting 220 or 110 volts to 12 volts DC to run the transmitters and the amplifiers. This means that in the field, it could also be run off a car battery or solar panels! Once assembled, adjustments are minimal, including the setting of the station's authorized frequency.

Early experiments in fairly hilly terrain showed that this transmitter could be heard with a simple radio from as far as 12-20 kms away.

Since then a 100 watt amplifier has also been designed that is even more compact. *"Integrated circuits and new components enable us to make smaller pieces of equipment, but some manufacturers just like to use big boxes; open them up and they're practically empty inside,"* quips Allard. When the cooling fan is removed, the amplifier itself is about the size of a large address book. Its assembled cost is about $2,000 as compared with commercial transmitters of that power which can cost more than $15,000.



The Unesco/Porsche Design radio waiting for a manufacturer (Photo Unesco/Michel Claude).

Premium flexibility

The audio mixer was cleverly designed by Jake Mills, former Technical Director of the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation. Its modular circuits for each audio channel can be set for the use of microphones, turntables, tape recorders and other inputs. In this way the technicians can make two, three, four or six channels, or three stereo channels; or can link two mixers in tandem and have six stereo channels. All channels are linked to the final output control and from there to the transmitter. Cost is modest, assembly is simple and flexibility is the premium.

What good are radio stations though without radios for people to listen to? Providing an FM antenna is simple enough; the possibilities range from a wire stretched between two trees to bent metal tubes. However, in many countries, radio sets are difficult to come by and just too expensive for much of the population.

The Unesco team has come up with varying responses to this problem. An original design for a single band FM radio was dismissed as being too limited by developing country technicians. In Sri Lanka, for example, the demand was for a radio that could pick up both FM and AM (SW, MW, LW) broadcasts. The answer here was simply to add an FM tuning circuit to existing AM radios using an electronic chip. Such a conversion costs less than $1.50 and about half an hour's basic soldering. In Bhutan, the need was for FM and shortwave; a new chip with two sets of tuning frequencies was identified and an original low consumption circuit was designed around it. Apart from FM and shortwave, this set, with a slight adjustment, could also be assembled for FM and AM. Technicians in the Democratic Republic of Korea have decided to make a stereo pocket version of this radio which will soon be marketed industrially. Porsche Design also assisted this project with a proposal for low-cost housing for the radio. It's tough, light, and cheap to run thanks to its solar panel, which can be easily moved about, and which also keeps the radio's batteries charged so that it can be operated at night.

Apart from these first steps though, the receiver designs exist only in prototype models. The next step is to prepare the way for local assembly, and herein lies the problem. To keep the price to a minimum, the radio must be mass produced. However, the fact that it is solar powered means that there are no after-sales profits to be made on batteries. Consequently, the established radio manufacturers have shown little interest in giving such a project their support. An initial quantity could be produced within the framework of a development project funded by one of the big aid agencies, but this approach is unsustainable - surviving only as long as the donor's funds. If this hurdle can be overcome a new leap foreward could be made in communications for the developing world.

Carlos Arnaldo

>>> Section of communication media and technologies.

An international network

The first test site for the Unesco designed equipment was Homa Bay FM in Kenya in 1981, which was set up for less than $25,000.

Sri Lanka followed in 1983 with the Guirandurokotte Community FM station that evolved from the Mahaweli Project (see p.11). The 10 watt transmitter originally installed is now being amplified by a 100 watt booster which not only reaches the immediate community but also serves as a relay to the regional medium wave transmitter 30kms away. Elsewhere in the world, the Unesco transmitter is on the air in Apam and Dormaa Ahenkro (Ghana), on the island of Sal (Cape Verde), St. Lucia (Caribbean), Bhutan, Malé (Maldives), Tonga, Niue and the Philippines.

Since the early experiments, a number of developing country technicians have made their own adaptations; Sri Lankan technicians, for example, designed a mobile console which folds into a compact box that can be packed into a jeep, as well as a remote control panel so that cueing and operations of all recorders can be manipulated by one hand, leaving the other free for controlling sound output. This is perhaps one of the most important aspects of the whole programme, i.e., to train and involve developing country engineers in the design, testing and operation of the new stations. From the very beginning, an African engineer was recruited to work on the team that designed the audio mixer and transmitter. National and regional workshops have also been regularly held at which revisions of design could be made and tested. It was felt that if engineers built their own equipment that would have a more comfortable, familiar feel for it when they had to maintain or repair it; they would also have greater familiarity with the components and could make workable substitutions from available materials. It's hoped that such an approach will contribute to greater autonomy of design, operation and maintenace and move towards the development of a corps of professional broadcast engineers in those countries where they are now almost non-existent.

To find out more

Rural radio: programme formats: This monograph, the fifth in the series "Communication Technology and Utilization" surveys how seven rural programmes were created, organized and produced in Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Ghana, Colombia, the Philippines, Czechoslovakia and Canada. Contains practical tips for broadcasters, and creative suggestions for adaptation of broadcasting styles around the world. Unesco, 1979.

Sound production - Technical notes for the non-technicians: by Michael Roberts. This 178-page, easy-to-read monograph looks at the problems encountered when building radio studies; a handy reference for broadcasters, studio planners, researchers and field personnel in both professional broadcasting and sound recording in general. No. 7 in the Unesco series "Monographs on communication technology and utilization", 1985.

Communication and rural development: Juan E. Diaz Bordenave critically examines 10 case studies of rural development projects involving communication media, many of which are based on the use of community radio, and outlines fundamental principles to be observed to ensure the greater efficiency of such programmes. Unesco, 1977.

Community Communications: by Frances Berrigan, this 50 page report examines the role of community media in development. Published in the series Reports and paper on mass communication, No. 90, 1981.

Access: some western models of community media: edited by Frances J. Berrigan, this volume traces the emergence of community media in Western society - specifically, approaches to broadcasting in North America and Western Europe. Unesco, 1977.

The right to communicate: a status report: by Desmond Fisher. Reports and papers on mass communication, No. 94, 1982.

Organizing educational broadcasting: by David Hawkridge and John Robinson, this book is intended for those who work in educational radio or television systems and examines a wide range of practical experiences around the world. Co-published with Croom Helm Ltd, 1982.

Many Voices, One World ; Communication and Society Today and Tomorrow. The final report of the International Commission for the Study of Communication Problems examines the situation in modern society, dealing with issues ranging from government controls and censorship, to technological evolution and revolution and the right to communicate. Published by Kogan Page/Unipub/ Unesco, 1988 (reprint) (first pub. 1980).

PAGE AND SCREEN

BIBLIO CA A EXANDRINA
INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION
CONCOURS INTERNATIONAL D'ARCHITECTURE

BOOKS

Bibliotheca Alexandrina

This elegant 267-page catalogue was issued on the occasion of the exhibition: "Bibliotheca Alexandrina" at Unesco Headquarters from November 5 to 15. It describes the International Architectural Competition, along with full details on the winning design by Snøhetta Arkitektur Landskap (Norway), the 2nd and 3rd Prize winners and 60 other projects, a preface by Director-General Federico Mayor, an introduction by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, and texts by other eminent personalities.The Competition, organized by the International Union of Architects, was launched in September 1988 and terminated in September 1989 when an International Jury made a tight selection from among 535 submissions. The Jury's concern, in addition to a well-functioning, modern library, was to select a project with a "strong symbolic image to express the roots of Egyptian civilization, turned towards the Mediterranean world and to the world of tomorrow."

Bibliotheca Alexandrina: International Architectural Competition, Unesco/UNDP/Carte Segrete, 1990, 230 FF. Available at the Unesco Bookshop or from Carte Segrete, Via Garibaldi 53, 00153 Rome, Italy.

Publications and periodicals are on sale at the Unesco Bookshop, or by order from Unesco Press, 7 place de Fontenoy, 75700 Paris, and in Member States through national distributors.

The Ecology and Management of Aquatic-Terrestrial Ecotones

Transition zones between ecological systems, ecotones perform many crucial functions such as maintaining biodiversity and regulating transient biochemical processes. They can, for example, serve as filters against pollution or provide resistance to drought under a changing climate regime. This book, the first publication on the dynamics of ecotones associated with continental waters, summarizes current research on the topic, emphasizing use of the aquatic-terrestrial interface for landscape management and restoration, and the long term socio-economic values of ecotones. Future research, education and management directions are recommended.

The Ecology and Management of Aquatic-Terrestrial Ecotones, edited by Robert J. Naiman and Henri Decamps, Unesco/Parthenon (MAB series Vol.4), 1990, 316 pp. illus., figs., tables, 340 FF

Literacy & Illiteracy in the World: Situation, Trends and Prospects

In this comprehensive analysis, Sema Tanguiane, principal researcher at the USSR Academy of Sciences and former Assistant Director-General for Education at Unesco, combines the most recent data with thought-provoking reflections and practical propositions. Using concrete examples, he convincingly demonstrates that literacy and primary education are a *sine qua non* for economic and social development, and, especially where girls and women are concerned, closely related to reduction of population growth and child mortality. With nearly one billion illiterates, Mr Tanguiane concludes, "Humanity is faced with a serious and complex problem", but one which, he insists "could be solved provided governments and the international community have the will to do so".

Literacy & Illiteracy in the World: Situation, Trends and Prospects, Vol. XLII of the *International Yearbook of Education*, by Sema Tanguiane, Unesco 1990, 163 pp., 65 FF

PERIODICALS

Museum

Spreading the Word: National Museum Periodicals at Work. Introducing this issue (No. 168, 4/1990), *Museum* Editor Arthur Gillette looks to a day when the world's 35,000 or more museums will be networked with electronic mail and videoconferences. Until then, he writes *"there will be no real substitute for periodical journals as a means of exchanging information ideas, fears and hopes"*. Accordingly, the magazine opens its pages to a dozen of these journals - among some 50 national museum periodicals listed separately - most of them aimed at specialists, but a few of equal interest to the general public, some newly revamped, others with problems, but all "spreading the word".

Prospects

Education and Informatics. Over 400 participants from 96 countries and 26 international organizations attended Unesco's International Congress on "Education and Informatics" last year. In its "Open File", *Prospects* provides an idea of the scope and spirit of the Congress, and reproduces some of the key papers to give an updated description of available equipment and techniques; the situation in the field of introducing informatics in education; computers in out-of-school activities; their use in continuing education; and finally, new perspectives in international co-operation. This issue (No. 74) also looks at another "revolution", in an article entitled *"Globalization of education and Eastern Europe"*.

The Unesco Courier

The Enigma of Beauty, *"The trouble about beauty,"* Sir Ernst Gombrich has written, *"is that tastes and standards of what is beautiful differ so much"*. No matter. According to the December *Courier*, "The modern world, where a spirit of relativism has triumphed, has largely abandoned the quest for universally acceptable principles of beauty and aesthetics." *The Courier* however explores the enigma through the "transient and the timeless", the "visible and the invisible", and takes a close look at a few "universal acceptables" like Chinese painting, African masks, and the Greek ideal.

GERMANY: MORE THAN $1,000,000 FOR TROPICAL FORESTS

Germany will finance a one million dollar inter-regional co-operation project for the protection of tropical forests.

The two year project, led by Unesco's Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB), will cover Africa, Latin America and Asia. The goal is to develop local knowledge and competence as a means of learning how to tap natural resources in forests without destroying them, and to ensure the better spread of technical and scientific information on these vital ecosystems. To this end, grants will be made available to young scientists for overseas study, on-site research, training schemes and workshops. Programmes aimed at sensitizing populations to the importance of tropical forests also make up an important part of the project which takes Germany's contribution to Unesco's work in tropical forests to some $4.5m over the past 12 months.

Tropical forest in the Vallée de Mai Nature Reserve, Seychelles (Photo Unesco/J. Palmyre).

PGI COUNCIL SETS PRIORITIES

Unesco's General Information Programme (PGI) should give top priority to the establishment and interconnection of information systems and the development of: specialized information services and networks within the Organization's fields of competence, library activities and document delivery systems, and archives infrastructures and records management programmes. These were among the recommendations of the Eighth Session of the Programme's Intergovernmental Council held at Headquarters from November 5-9. The Council stressed the importance of information networks on the environment and those promoting technology transfer, the cultural dimension of development and world heritage.

Promoting women's studies in Asia

Barely eight years ago, Women's Studies in Asia were an ill-defined and unrecognized discipline with no standing in the academic world. In most countries, courses on women were incorporated into the existing social science syllabi of universities. A myriad of questions on women's issues persisted and *"research needed to answer them was still very inadequate,"* says Dr. Yogesh Atal, Unesco's Regional Advisor for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific (RUSHAP).

The situation has begun to change since, with universities in India, Thailand and Korea now running Women's Studies courses. This surge of interest, which includes research as well as, in a broader sense, the study of inherent injustice and inequality in society and, by extension, human rights, has not only sharpened perceptions of the problem, but has also started to shape social policy. Not before time, says Dr. Atal, pointing out that *"to discuss women's issues is to discuss the concerns of almost half of humanity"*. Women's organizations and resource centres have been created, government departments for women's welfare set up, efforts have been made to redress the gender imbalance in school text books and the press has regularly brought to light the social ills and prejudices that have afflicted women through the ages.

Reflecting cultural realities

RUSHAP has played a key role in this movement by sponsoring research on women, publishing books, monographs, occasional papers, directories of women scholars and social science institutions conducting women's programmes and supporting the production of teaching materials for South East Asian universities.

One of the main problems in undertaking research of this kind is the methodology used. The point was made 10 years ago by Professor Leela Dube, an Indian sociologist who published a status report on *Studies on Women in Southeast Asia* for RUSHAP. Reviewing research in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, Professor Dube concluded that *"western notions and methodology sometimes lead to irrelevant and superficial findings ... because the categories used in data collection and analysis may not be relevant in the cultural realities of the region"*. She also found that *"there are inherent dangers in treating Asia as a single model"*, for even where *"socio-economic levels are similar across cultures, the structure of rights and the quality of man-woman relationships can differ widely"*.

The impact of male migration

Another RUSHAP study, *Women in the Villages, Men in the Towns,* focusses on the effects on women of male migration to the cities, which has been one of the major consequences of industrialization throughout Asia. Whereas most research on migration deals with the problems and pressures faced by the newcomers in an alien land, this study, conducted in Bangladesh, Korea, India, the Philippines and Thailand, examines the situation of the women left behind, caught in the currents of rapid social change, weighed down by loneliness and yet ready to accept male migration for the economic benefit. But differences in the countries surveyed are as striking as the similarities: in Bangladesh and India, most women are poor, illiterate and neglectful of their health; they tend to put off major decisions until their partner comes home. In Thailand, Korea and the Philippines women have varying degrees of education and do not live at the subsistence level. Remittance from towns helps them, not so much to satisfy their basic wants, but to educate their children and raise their standard of living. Remittance is also a sign of prestige, particularly in the Philippines. The case of Korea is altogether different: it is not the young wife but the mother of unmarried children who is left behind and, in her old age, returns to working in the fields.

Another cross-cultural project on women's participation in various spheres of public life was published under the title *Women in Asia: Beyond the Domestic Domain.* The study tried to probe the kind of environment in which women make, or do not make, decisions. What factors help or hinder this process? Don't women's occupational roles nullify the *"biological givens"* about them? The study, carried out in India, Indonesia and Thailand, illustrated the complex process of decision making within the home and without, as subtly defined in each culture.

WOMEN SOCIAL SCIENTIST
asia-pa
Institution Engaged Research WOMEN
Women's Studies and Social Sciences in Asia
WOMEN
Status of Wo VIETN
Status of Women CHINA

RUSHAP publications : "discussing the concerns of almost half of humanity" (Photo Unesco).

Steering clear of politics

As for women's participation in their countries' political process, the scene is utterly dismal, as a RUSHAP study entitled *Women in Politics*, shows. The study, which has not yet been published, was launched in seven countries last year, including Bangladesh, Australia, Malaysia, Nepal, Thailand and the Philippines. The monographs confirm women's scepticism about politics in general: whatever the culture, education or stage of economic development, women fight shy of politics and regard it as an arena fraught with vice and corruption. For them, being aware of and responsive to political situation does not mean joining the mainstream or being at the helm of affairs.

Strengthening family studies

At present, country profiles on the status of women in laos, Vietnam, China, the Maldives, Mongolia, Afghanistan and Thailand are in the making. Of these, five have already been published. Last year also saw the publication of *Filipino Women in Focus.* Two other projects, *Women in a Changing Society: Views from Japan* and *Women, Family and Social Change in Turkey* have also been recently launched.

One of RUSHAP's ambitions is to strengthen family studies in the years ahead. As a beginning, surveys are being made of families in Asia, particularly migrant families and the socialization of their children. The results of this study will be published next year. Speaking at a landmark workshop on Women in Politics, which was held in Bangkok earlier this year, Dr. Atal said that his unit has *"struggled for 15 years to build, piece by piece, with small amounts of money and no extra-budgetary help, to promote women's studies". "But small noises become a big voice"*, he added.

RUSHAP's broad-based and inter-disciplinary documentation has a clear advantage. By providing, at a glance, rich material on the status of women in Asian countries, both at the micro level in the form of detailed case studies and at the macro level as a data base, it paints a nuanced picture of the Asian woman and unfailingly highlights the diversities that lie behind the myriad roles that she plays.

Latika Padgaonkar
India

▨ EIGHT NEW MAB BIOSPHERE RESERVES

Eight new sites have been added to the Man and Biosphere Programme's network of biosphere reserves, including: the coastal zone of El Kala (Algeria), the mountain forests of Shennongjia (China), Mont Ventoux (France), Berchtesgaden Alps (Germany), Wadden Sea of Schleswig-Holstein (Germany), the moors of Shorfheide-Chorin (Germany), the Maya national parks (Guatemala) and the Great Gobi desert (Mongolia).

The new reserves, which swell the network to 293 sites in 74 countries, were approved by the MAB Programme's International Co-ordinating Council, at its biennial meeting held at Headquarters from November 12-16.

This Council session also marked a breakthrough in the struggle to protect the Amazon forests with Brazil, for the first time, proposing that part of its Atlantic Forest zone be established as a biosphere reserve. The proposal will be given top priority at the next Bureau meeting in March, 1991.

The Council also approved grants of up to $5,000 for 20 young scientists from 19 countries to carry out research projects, almost half of which concern work in forests.

▨ BIOTECHNOLOGIES - THE WAY TO THE FUTURE ?

What will happen to the coffee producing countries, when scientists succeed in making coffee bean substitutes in the laboratory ? Can genetically manipulated plants solve the problem of food shortages in the developing world ?

Such were the issues confronted by a group of 20 specialists who took part in a Unesco organized seminar on the economic and social implications of biotechnologies, which was held at Vezelay (France) from October 28-31.

The meeting stressed that biotechnologies should be seen as a 'range of tools' and carefully chosen with a view to achieving the most positive impact. However, the specialists agreed, biotechnologies offer neither a panacea, nor a substitute to conventional and effective techniques such as those of crop breeding, animal breeding, or traditional vaccine production.

>>> Bureau of Studies, Programming and Evaluation.

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THE PLASTIC ARTS IN LATIN AMERICA

A group of some 40 artists, museum curators, researchers, art historians and critics met in Caracas (Venezuela) from October 23-26 to establish a programme for the development of plastic arts in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Over the next four years workshops for painting, sculpture and electronic art will be organized in an effort to encourage contact between artists from different countries and stimulate creativity.

The publication of critical and historical works on the art of the region, as well as the creation of a regional fund for the promotion of artists, were also proposed by the participants.

INTERNATIONAL ALERT FOR PANAMA'S STOLEN TREASURES

During the events that shook Panama in December 1989, hundreds of archaeological treasures were stolen from the nation's museums.

At the request of the Panamanian authorities Unesco has circulated a leaflet containing details and, where possible photos of the missing pieces to the 69 States party to the Organization's convention against the illicit trafficking of cultural property.

These Member States have been asked, in turn, to alert customs and police services, museums, antique dealers and collectors to the theft in an attempt to recover the objects, which include pre-Colombian ceramics and gold and silver artifacts.

One of the stolen objects, an anthropomorphic ceramic vase, from Veraguas, Central Region, Panama (Photo Museo Antropologico Reina Torres de Arauz).

Spreading the word

Population management in Algeria

In the 60's, and at the beginning of the 70's, Algeria believed that accelerating its industrial growth would solve the problems posed by the country's rapidly increasing population. However, the industrialization programme fell short of its goals, failing to trigger the "flow on" awaited in other sectors, particularly the agricultural domain and giving rise to a range of new problems.

In 1980, the country's leaders were confronted with the evidence of this setback: the weight of Algeria's demography had become too "heavy", and had reached a point where it risked compromising development efforts. By the year 2000 for example, the number of children attending school will be increasing by one million annually, and an extra two million homes will have to be built to house the additional population. With this in mind, the issue was included for the first time in the five year plan for 1980-1984. Then on February 20, 1983, the government adopted a national programme to try to brake demographic growth. One of the prime objectives was to sensitize the public to the dangers posed by a rapidly increasing population, on the individual, the family, and the society in general.

At the last census taken in 1987, the Algerian population had climbed to 23 million, with some 800,000 births per year and an annual growth of 2.8 percent. At this rate the population will double within 25-27 years. The "Agence nationale des actualités filmées" (National Film News Agency - ANAF) was given responsibility for the sensitization programme, and, to get the ball rolling, has set up a specialized Population Communication Unit.

Haphazard methods

This unit has had to start right from scratch. Social communication, or the use of the media to diffuse information of concern to society, is a relatively new field in Algeria, and has seen little practical use. The few attempts made up to now have been somewhat haphazard, not following any clear, scientific criteria. Material such as television and radio spots and posters dealing with the subject of population growth has been produced by the National Institute of Public Health (INSP), but no work has been done in the field. The means of communication used has also been somewhat arbitrarily selected in the past. In other words, the messages were developed from the knowledge of health officers and the "intuition" of those producing the material. *"There were those who conceived the programme on one side and those executing it on the other, both working without any co-ordination, and each being enclosed in their field of knowledge,"* summed up a journalist from the national daily *El-Moujahid.*

"The problem is obvious: there is no question of continuing to function like that. The barriers must come down and improvisation must come to an end," affirms Ait Si Selmi, ANAF director and an eminent figure in the Algerian press and cinema. Any effective programme must be based on a co-ordinated effort, with specialists from the health, social sciences and communication sectors working together to develop and spread messages that take the reality in the field into account.

Priority on training

The Algerian government has allocated some $260,000 to ANAF's Population Communication Unit to cover the costs of the project's intial phase from 1989 to 1993. The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), for its part, has contributed $611,800 for the purchase of audiovisual and graphic production equipment and training programmes for the unit's personnel. Unesco has the task of putting the project into action and organizing study trips abroad for the unit's staff. To date, three journalists have undertaking study trips to neighbouring Tunisia, whose experience in managing population growth has been taken as an example for the whole region. UNFPA and Unesco also recently organized a communication workshop/seminar for the unit's personnel along with INSP specialists and the press at ANAF's headquarters, which was led by

If the present annual growth rate of 2.8 percent is maintained, Algeria's population will double in within 25 to 27 years (Photo Unesco/Dominique Roger).

anthropologist and researcher at the American University of Cairo, Dr. Laila El Hammamsy. This was followed by a field investigation in the district of Setif, where a questionnaire on "fertility" habits was tested.

The start has been encouraging, but this doesn't mean that all the problems have been dealt with.

First up, the establishment of the Coordination Committee, which determines the project's main directions, was delayed for reasons linked to the socio-political changes that have shaken Algeria since 1988. On top of this the decisions on the type of people needed and the actual recruitment of the Unit's personnel has been rather slow. The four women journalists currently employed on the project are all graduates from the Institute of Information and Communication Sciences (ISIC). According to those in charge, these women *"have not perfectly mastered the discipline"* of social communication. Faced with these difficulties, the Director of ANAF intends giving top priority to training. The project aims to prepare 75 people in the different aspects of social communication between now and 1992.

The "feminine element"

The project is aiming high, but have those who conceived it really considered the consequences of their decision to privilege the "feminine element" in the unit's composition, and, beyond this, to give priority to women in future communications campaigns? While it certainly seems logical to address such campaigns to women, one might ask why the project has, consciously or unconsciously, ignored the fact that it is the men who give, or refuse, their wives permission to take the pill.

"Those who drew up the project, being mostly men, have an approach to social problems which remains conditioned by a certain mental structure and type of society that they have no desire to change," confirms an ISIC professor who is involved in the project, *"it is therefore not surprising that in a campaign aimed at limiting or spacing births, those in charge have not included the 'fertilizers', that is, the men. And yet no-one can ignore the fact that without their voluntary and effective participation, any family planning project is destined to failure."*

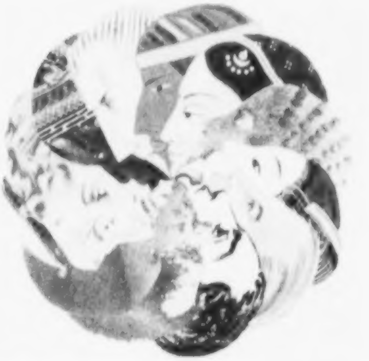
In the run up to Algeria's legislative elections which will take place in the coming months, there is one particular characteristic of this country that cannot be ignored: its population is young and made up of as many women as men. But the street remains a male domain...

Arezki Semache
ANAF journalist, Algiers

■ INTERNATIONAL ART CALENDAR

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of its International Art Calendar, the German Group Zanders Feinpapiere AG joined with Unesco and the International Council of Graphic Design Associations to produce its prestigious 1991 version, presented at Headquarters on November 13.

Many of the 14 graphic designers and artists (one for each month, plus the cover and frontespiece) from 13 countries who participated in the ambitious communication project "People to People - Paper Unites", were on hand for the occasion. Engaging in a new type of intercultural dialogue, the artists had exchanged ideas and designs by FAX to form visual links, thus creating something in common, although with different techniques. A set of 14 postcards reproducing the Calendar will be sold for 50 French Francs and proceeds contributed to **Unesco's Co-Action Programme** to finance construction of a pre-school in Equatorial Guinea.



The "People to People" motif from the Zanders Calendar (Design Marina Langer-Rosa).

■ UNESCO CRAFT PRIZE AWARDED

A collection of jewellery designed by Ms. Sangho Oumou (Côte d'Ivoire), which marries tradition and modernity, has won the 1990 Unesco Craft Prize.

The $5,000 prize was awarded for the first time at the Ouagadougou International craft fair (Burkina Faso, October 27-November 3), in recognition of the "Tedje" collection's originality, innovative and aesthetic character, its utility and potential for the international market.

The second prize of $3,000 went to Moussa Alkaba (Niger) for his "Khumesa" engraved, silver necklace, while the third prize of $2,000 was awarded to Jean-Claude Zida (Burkina Faso) for his Baobab lamp.

>>>>Section for the Promotion of the Arts

ACROSS MONGOLIA ON HORSEBACK

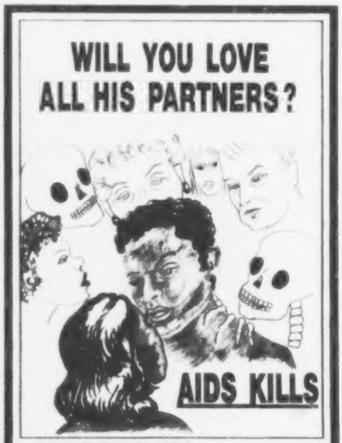
Guillaume de Rubroek may not be as well known as Marco Polo, but his travels across Mongolia in the 13th century include him in the ranks of the world's great travellers. Throughout August and September a team of 12 Frenchmen set out on horseback to retrace the monk's trail from west to east - a project which has been associated with Unesco's Integral Study of the Silk Roads: Roads of Dialogue. Only one of them, Bernard Langlois, had ever done any riding before, but, despite a broken rib, a dislocated shoulder and numerous falls "*everything went very well*" says team-member Pierre Letang.

The team included musicologists, linguists, writers, a photographer and an equine specialist, and covered 1,200 kilometres in six weeks, collecting material for records, books, exhibitions and research into the lifestyle of the Mongol people.

WORLD AIDS DAY - WOMEN IN THE SPOTLIGHT

"Women and AIDS" ... was the theme of World AIDS Day, 1990, which was celebrated on December first. To mark the event at Headquarters, an exhibition - "aids - All the world's women are concerned" - was mounted of posters collected from around the world highlighting the impact of AIDS on women and their role in combatting the virus. A selection of videos on the subject was also shown and Unesco Clubs and Associated Schools encouraged to prepare projects and activities on the theme to mark the day.

>>> *Programme of Education for AIDS prevention.*



Scientists make waves on the Maritime Silk Route

As the Fulk Al-Salamah (Ship of Peace) makes its way across calm seas, the international scientists on board have sometimes been making their own waves during discussions between ports-of-call. This sometimes stormy exchange of ideas and experiences is one of the important aims of the Maritime Silk Route Expedition, which began in Venice on 23 October and will end in Osaka in early March 1991.

In one of the daily discussion sessions, Professor S.D. Bandaranayake, Director of the Post-Graduate Institute of Archaeology in Colombo, Sri Lanka, even expressed scepticism about the use of the term "silk road".

The original concept, he explained, related to the abandoned cities and monasteries between Dunhuang and Kashgar in China, and to apply this specific phenomenon generally to contacts between East and West is an over-simplification of what was an intricate web of communications.

"It is dangerous to try to map the silk road," he said. *"You can use it as a metaphor to talk about trade across the Indian Ocean, but there is no simple silk route. This metaphor is , however, very useful, and I think that Unesco, by launching the project, has provoked a great deal of scholarly interest."*

How his own field of study fit in ? " *I have been long interested in studying cycles of development on a global basis. I think one of the main problems of contemporary historiography is why the rich and advanced populous societies of Asia - China and India for instance - failed to make the same social, ideological, scientific and cultural transformation that Europe did in the 15th and 16th centuries."*

"In Turkey", Prof. Bandaranayake continued, *"we had a fascinating glimpse of the potential contained in the Ottoman archives for studying that kind of problem. I was once in Afghanistan, and I found that, just like Iran, Egypt and Turkey, it had made great efforts in the 18th and 19th centuries to modernize but had failed. Why did these countries fail ? Why are some able to modernize and develop faster than others? This question is not only academic. It is closely related to the problem of development and underdevelopment and deeply imbedded in the study of historical dynamics. And I think that by over-simplifying, by reducing the silk road to the occurrence of this dragon motif here and that dance form there, one conceals the real theoretical and scientific potential of the project ."*

Prof. Bandaranayake is "allergic" to the word "influence". *"Some 19th and 20th century historians and archaeologists go to a country and say : "These guys couldn't have done this themselves. This must have come from somewhere else'. Now the danger of using the word 'influence' is that you place more importance on the person influencing than on the person influenced. That is why I'm really not interested in what I call motif hunting - seeing that this dragon motif came from here and was found there. That knowledge can be fascinating, even useful, but it diverts one from looking at the real historical dynamics."*

Maha Bulos
on board the Fulk-al-Salamah

In China, English is no longer Greek

Li Liping, a 12-year old student at the No. 3 Railwal Middle School in Kunmin, South China, is eager to greet visitors in his English with a clear Chinese accent. *"How do you do ?" "Welcome to our class !"*

"These pupils have an unusually strong interest in English," said his teacher, Wang Aimei. *"They began learning the language just over a month ago, but already use it to communicate in and after class."*

Concentrating on communication skills (Photo Unesco/Si Jiuyue).

Wang, who has been teaching in secondary schools for 23 years, said English used to be the subject Chinese pupils liked the least. Since they seldom showed an interest in speaking it, she was totally surprised, recently, to find 80 youngsters thoroughly enjoying their English class.

"It's because they're now using a new kind of textbook," she said, explaining that her class was one of about 2,000 all over China chosen to test the series, "Junior English for China".

China's old English language textbooks, written in the 1970s and still used by over 40 million pupils, are outdated. The authors considered language as knowledge, placing stress on structure and grammar, while teachers often resorted to rote training.

"The result is that pupils learn grammar, but can't speak" said Zhang Guodong of China's State Education Commission. *"They endlessly repeat sentence patterns and essays without understanding how the language is used in real life."*

A survey carried out in 15 cities and provinces in China revealed, in fact, that most secondary school pupils, after years of study, found it hard to communicate even in simple English.

"This situation does not meet our needs. China has opened its doors, but few people can speak the languages of the outside world," said Liu Daoyi, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the Chinese People's Educational Press (PEP) which published the new series in cooperation with the Longman Group Ltd. of Great Britain.

Example of cooperation

The project, financed by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), was prepared by Unesco, which, in order to meet the 1993 deadline for textbooks covering four years of Middle School, sub-contracted a professional publisher (Longman) through international bidding to assist Chinese authors in the preparation of texts, provide editorial services and training in desktop publishing skills. Indeed, the project is also a good example of cooperation between an international organization and private enterprise to improve China's publishing capacity.

Louis Alexander, an expert in English language teaching materials and senior consultant on the project, said the books *"concentrate entirely on communication skills, and besides, make the learning of English a joy."*

"By increasing the pool of English-speaking personnel, they will contribute to greater access for China to information and technology from abroad," added David Lockwood of the UNDP in Beijing.

By 1993, 50 million secondary school pupils will be using the new textbook which means, said Liu, *"that by the year 2000, about 100 million secondary school graduates should be able to communicate in simple English through China's opening doors."*

Si Jiuyue and Li Xiguang, Beijing

■ TYRE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN CIVILIZATIONS

Historians, archeologists and researchers met at Headquarters November 6 for a symposium on the ancient city of Tyre in southern Lebanon and its role in the development of Mediterranean civilizations.

The ruins of Tyre, threatened by the ravages of war (Photo Unesco/Dominique Roger).

Organized by the Association for the Safeguard of Tyre, the symposium examined the influence of this Phoenician city and World Heritage Site on the languages, writing and art of the Mediterranean, as well as commercial exchanges.

The city, which has suffered numerous seiges and conquests throughout its long history, is again threatened by the ravages of war and participants used the symposium to make an impassioned plea for its protection.

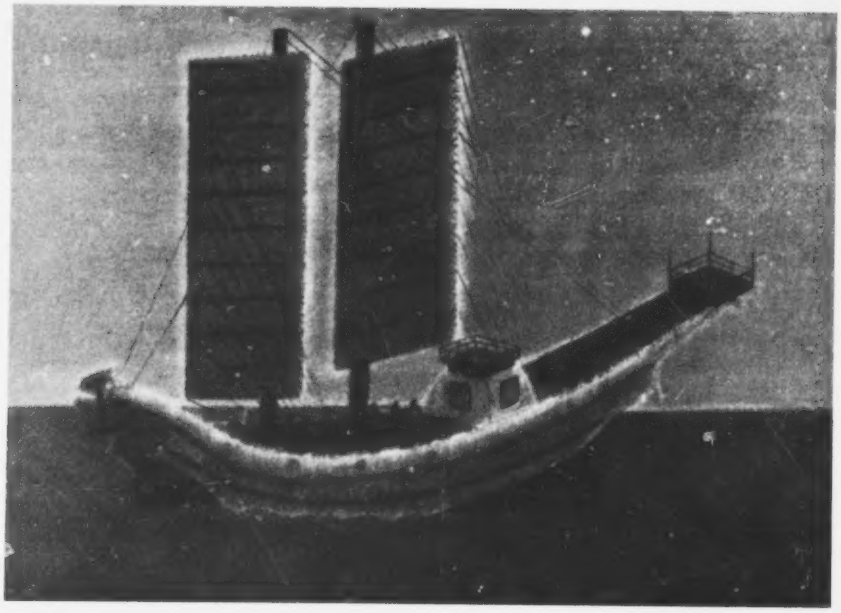
To this end, they also examined possible co-operation between the region's institutions and raised the importance of establishing a "North-South" dialogue in the Mediterranean in favour of peace and development.

■ SPORT MUST BE PROTECTED

More than ever, sport must be protected against the dangers of inappropriate commercialization, violence and drugs.

Such was the conclusion of the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport, which met in Ottawa (Canada) from October 22-26. To ensure this protection, the Committee stressed the importance of promoting the ethics of sport, privileging its educational dimension, and struggling incessantly against the use of drugs and other negative influences threatening sport.

looking ahead



Poster symbolizing the Maritime Route, from a painting by Japanese Master Ikuo Hirayama.

SILK ROADS : ALONG THE MARITIME ROUTE

Four Seminars are scheduled along the Maritime Route Expedition of Unesco's Silk Roads : Roads of Dialogue Project, between January 15 and February 15 : in **Bangkok** (Thailand), from January 18 to 23, on "Ancient Trades and Cultural Contacts in South-East Asia" ; in **Brunei** from January 27 to 31, on "Effects and Influence of the Maritime Route on Brunei Culture" ; in **Manila** (Philippines), from February 3 to 7, "Manila a Second Venice" ; and in **Quanzhou** (Canton), from February 14 to 19, "China and the Maritime Routes of the Silk Roads." The Fulk al Salamah (Ship of Peace) will then continue on, via Korea, to Osaka, its final destination after a 4-month voyage.

POLLUTION OF THE OCEAN

The Scientific Committee on Global Investigation of Pollution in the Marine Environment (GIPME VII) of Unesco's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) will hold its 7th session at Headquarters from January 21 to 25 to take stock of global and regional research and monitoring activities.

SAVANNA LAND USE

An International Workshop on Economic Driving Forces and Constraints in Savanna Land Use will be organized in Nairobi (Kenya) by Unesco-MAB and the International Union for Biological Sciences (IUBS) from January 23 to 27. Case studies from Latin America, Africa, Australia and India will be used to analyse such issues as global market forces, notably concerning livestock.

WORLD EDUCATION REPORT

A Meeting of Experts to review the draft World Education Report will be held at Headquarters from January 28 to February 5. Designed to identify major world trends on a periodic basis through a critical/analytic presentation of national education systems, the Report is due for publication end 1991, with literacy as the special theme of its first issue.

WORLD DECADE FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The first extraordinary session of the Intergovernmental Committee of the World Decade for Cultural Development (1988-1997) will take place at Headquarters from February 4 to 8. On the agenda : current and future activities in line with the Decade's Plan of Action.

GEOLOGICAL MAP OF THE WORLD

The Plenary Assembly of the Commission for the Geological Map of the World (CGMW) will be held at Headquarters from February 11 to 15, notably to review the cartographic programme being carried out by the CGMW in collaboration with Unesco.

TROPICAL FOREST

An International Workshop on the protection and rational management of the African Tropical Forest will be organized by Unesco-MAB in Kinshasa (Zaire) from February 11 to 23. The emphasis will be on coordination of educative and scientific aspects.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

In its January issue, Unesco SOURCES will FOCUS on periodicals published by the Organization. Some, like the *Courier*, are universally known. Others, designed more for specialists, are less familiar to the general public. Yet these magazines - *Prospects, Museum, the International Social Science Journal*, etc. - constitute a valuable forum. All have one thing in common : their global approach to the issues they address.